Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-026
Tuesday
8 February 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-026

CONTENTS

8 February 1994

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Britain, Germany Warn Russia Against Aggression *[BNS]* 1
Envoy Urges UN Mandate for Russian-Led Force in Karabakh *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 4 Feb]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Joint CIS Structures Necessary To Prevent Conflicts *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Feb 2

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Official Reaction to Proposed Bombing of Bosnia 4
Kozyrev Deems Attack Unfavorable *[INTERFAX]* 4
Churkin: Strikes Will Worsen Situation *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Feb]* 5
Churkin Defends 'Quiet Diplomacy' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Feb]* 5
Air Force Commander Opposes Bombing *[INTERFAX]* 7
Moscow Urges 'Restraint' *[IZVESTIYA 8 Feb]* 7
Zhirinovskiy Rejects Strikes *[INTERFAX]* 8
Lukin Urges Investigation of Sarajevo Explosion *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
Identity of Perpetrators Pondered *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Feb]* 8
'Disconcerting' Questions Surround Bosnian 'Tragedy' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Feb]* 9
Lukin Hits Kozyrev Foreign Policy Style *[IZVESTIYA 5 Feb]* 9
U.S. Switches Focus to Ukraine *[IZVESTIYA 8 Feb]* 10
KGB Spokesman Says CIA 'Most Active' Service *[Milan PANORAMA 4 Feb]* 11
Paper Profiles U.S. Defense Secretary Perry *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 8 Feb]* 11
Delegations To Draw Up Nuclear Arms Measures *[INTERFAX]* 12
Russia Welcomes Ukraine's START I Ratification *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
Dubinin Hopes Ukraine To Clarify Nuclear Issue *[INTERFAX]* 13
Georgia Signs Treaty Out of 'Necessity' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Feb]* 13
Aide Says Georgia Opted for Strategic Alliance *[Moscow Radio]* 14
Yeltsin Approves Accord With Moldova on Army *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 8 Feb]* 14
Kozyrev Condemns 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Baltics *[INTERFAX]* 14
Envoy Remarks on Stalled Talks With Estonia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 4 Feb]* 15
Envoy Upbeat on Latest Talks *[Moscow Radio]* 15
French Defense Minister Leotard Continues Visit 15
Meets With Security Council Secretary *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Feb]* 15
Views Military Ties With Grachev *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Feb]* 15
Discusses Bosnia *[Paris LE MONDE 8 Feb]* 16
German Chancellor Supports Russian Reform *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Zhirinovskiy Stresses Russo-German Friendship
[Munich DEUTSCHE NATIONAL-ZEITUNG 4 Feb] 18
Interior Minister Meets Walesa, Pawlak in Warsaw *[ITAR-TASS]* 19
Initial Cooperation Accord Reached With Mexico *[ITAR-TASS]* 20
Official on Incursions by Japanese Fishing Boats *[TRUD 5 Feb]* 20
Japanese Vessels Admit Fishing, Border Violations *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Detained Boats To Be Escorted Out *[ITAR-TASS]* 21

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Adviser on Government Changes *[Russian TV]* 22
Resignation Letter Cited *[INTERFAX]* 22

Medvedev on Creation of Presidential Party *[Moscow Radio]* 22
Communists Meet in 'Atmosphere of Conspiracy' *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Prosecutor Draws Up Criminal Case Against Zhirinovskiy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 8 Feb]* 23
Yeltsin Adviser Baturin Discusses Security Issues *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 7 Feb]* 24
New PRAVDA Ownership Hopes To Publish Daily *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 8 Feb]* ... 25
Media Appeal Court Edict, Statute *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 3 Feb]* 26

Economic Issues

Economics Minister 'Determined' To Cut Inflation *[ITAR-TASS]* 28
Gap Between Wage, Price Rises Widen in 1993 *[INTERFAX]* 29
Labor Ministry Analyzes Incomes, Living Standards *[IZVESTIYA 5 Feb]* 29
Trade Union Leaders Demand Chernomyrdin Meeting *[TRUD 8 Feb]* 29

Military, Nuclear, & Space Issues

Grachev Briefs Officers on Problems in Armed Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Says Army Units 60 Percent Manned *[INTERFAX]* 30
Outlines Russia's Peacekeeping Mission *[Moscow Radio]* 30
Officers Reject MVD Move, Seek Discharge *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Feb]* 31
Nuclear, Radiation Safety 'Unsatisfactory' *[INTERFAX]* 31
'Mir', 'Discovery' To Be Linked Via Radio *[ITAR-TASS]* 32

Federal Assembly

Fedorov Elected Chairman of Key Duma Committee *[Radio Rossii]* 32
Disagreements Result in Duma Agenda Changes *[IZVESTIYA 5 Feb]* 32
Gaydar Comments on Current Debates in State Duma *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Travkin Urges Sending Duma Delegation to Yugoslavia *[INTERFAX]* 33
Duma Legislation Committee Chief Interviewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 Feb]* 33

Regional Affairs

Rebel Leader Demands Chechen Leader's Resignation *[INTERFAX]* 34
Dudayev Ignores Resignation Demand *[ITAR-TASS]* 34
Chechen Spokesman Denies Tension Escalating *[INTERFAX]* 35
Ingush President Not To Seek Reelection *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
North Ossetian Official on Need for Political Solution *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 5 Feb]* 35
Official Says No Hurry for Treaty With Tatarstan *[INTERFAX]* 36
Far East Leaders Appeal for State Support *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Crimean Leader Meets Black Sea Fleet Commander *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Fleet Termed 'Guarantor of Stability' *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Ambassador Says Ukraine To Join NPT 'Shortly' *[INTERFAX]* 37
Kravchuk Secures Victory at Disarmament Debate *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Feb]* 37
Official on Effect of Accord on Fuel Situation *[UNIAN]* 38
Organization Lauds Kravchuk for Signing Accord *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 3 Feb]* 38
Regional Organizations Hail Tripartite Declaration *[DNEPROVSKAYA PANORAMA 20 Jan]* 38
Plyushch Stresses Commitment to Territorial Integrity *[INTERFAX]* 39
Government Replaces Peacekeepers in Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

National Affairs

Plyushch Views Causes of Economic Crisis *[Kiev International]* 39
Parliament Adopts Program on Foreign Investment *[UKRINFORM]* 41
Cabinet, Banks Seeking Resolution to Nonpayments *[UNIAN]* 41
Rukh Chairman Accuses Authorities of Pressure *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 4 Feb]* 42

Parties Allocated Air Time During Election Campaign *[UNIAN]* 43
Congress of Nationalists Presents Platform *[NARODNA TRYBUNA 29 Jan]* 43

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Premier Kebich Interviewed on Russian Ties *[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 5 Feb]* 44
Differences 'Narrowing' on Monetary Union With Russia *[INTERFAX]* 46
Deputy Premier on Talks *[Minsk Radio]* 46
Hryb Affirms Commitment to Military *[VO SLAVU RODINY 3 Feb]* 46

Moldova

Snegur Urges People To Prevent Bloodshed *[Bucharest Radio]* 47
Snegur Views Ethnic Issues With Dniester Residents *[BASAPRESS]* 47

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Postpones Moscow Visit Over Baykonur *[Radio Rossii]* 48
Nazarbayev Issues Resolution on Mutual Debts *[ITAR-TASS]* 48
Issues Resolution on Supreme Court *[Almaty Radio]* 48

Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Meets EBRD Representatives *[Bishkek Radio]* 48
Resolution on Improving Public Order, Curbing Crime *[INTERFAX]* 48

Tajikistan

'Unidentified Gunmen' Kill Volunteer *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Armed Afghan Militants Clash With Border Guards *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

Turkmenistan

President in 'Good Condition' After Surgery in U.S. *[INTERFAX]* 49

Uzbekistan

Kozyrev Begins Visit, Prepares for Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 49
Holds Talks With Foreign Minister *[ITAR-TASS]* 49

CAUCASUS

Armenia

'Thick Fog' Forces Calm on Karabakh Fronts *[SNARK]* 51
Fighting in North Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
Losses Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 51
President Departs on Official Visit to Britain *[ITAR-TASS* 51
Terrorism Threats Urge Aliyev Resignation *[SNARK]* 51
Papazyan: Foreign Military Aid Goes to Azerbaijan *[SNARK]* 52
Envoys Take Message to Kuwaiti Leader *[Yerevan Radio]* 52

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Discusses Conflict With Russian Envoy *[TURAN]* 52
Minister on Rescue of Armenian Occupied Territory *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* 52
'Relative Calm' Descends on Karabakh Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 53

Fighting Continues *[ITAR-TASS]* 53
Official Denies Report on Military Base Talks *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 5 Feb]* 53
Official Recounts Azerbaijani Losses in Fighting *[INTERFAX]* 53

Georgia

U.S. Diplomat's Killer Sentenced to 15 Years *[Tbilisi TV]* 53
Further Details *[INTERFAX]* 53
Russians Return To Set Up Military Bases *[TURAN]* 53
Ioseliani Welcomes UN Resolution, Yeltsin Visit *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 4 Feb]* 54
Abkhazia Accused of Trying to Derail Talks *[INTERFAX]* 55
Statement Assails Gudauta Separatist 'Genocide' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 55
Forces Thwart Georgian Sabotage Attack on Bridge *[INTERFAX]* 55
Abkhaz Ministry Denies Involvement in Hostilities *[Tbilisi TV]* 56
Ministry Officer Killed; Investigation Demanded *[Russian TV]* 56
New Body Planned To Coordinate Security Services *[INTERFAX]* 56

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

New Finance, Economics Ministers Begin Work *[ETA]* 57
Premier Deems Social Tax Increase 'Fatal' *[ETA]* 57
LDPR Activities Create 'Scandal' *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Police Detain Government Adviser, TV Team *[BNS]* 57

Latvia

Clinton Praises Work of Parliament Delegation *[BNS]* 58
Two New Russian Army Units Formed in Skrunda *[Riga Radio]* 58
Latest Russian Proposal Reported *[BNS]* 58

Lithuania

Kravchuk Arrives in Lithuania for Official Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 58
Ambassador Advocates Baltic-Black Sea Alliance *[BNS]* 59
Independence Party Holds Congress *[RESPUBLIKA 1 Feb]* 59

Britain, Germany Warn Russia Against Aggression

WS0702125794 Tallinn BNS in English 1754 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Munich, Germany, AP-BNS—British and German leaders on Saturday [5 February] warned Russia to respect the integrity of its former Soviet neighbors.

Worries about Russia's relations with the Baltic states and other former Soviet republics took center stage at a two-day meeting on strategic and military issues where William Perry made his international debut as U.S. defense secretary. Perry sat between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the German Defense Minister, Volker Ruehe, at the gathering of defense ministers, politicians, officers and defense experts, which he was to address Sunday.

Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, was quoted last month as saying Russia should keep troops in former Soviet republics to protect its vital interests. Many people worry that the Russian Government, under pressure from ultranationalists like Vladimir Zhirinovksiy, could start bullying the new countries of the former Soviet bloc to get its way.

William S. Cohen, a Republican senator from Maine, thinks this is starting to happen already. "We have to keep a very close eye on what the Russian military is up to," Cohen said. "They have been engaged in a protectionist racket by bringing governments to their knees and rushing in with aid, provided they join the Commonwealth of Independent states, which is under the protection of Russia," Cohen said.

Malcolm Rifkind, the British defense secretary, said NATO's immediate priority must be to agree on a strategy for dealing with any attempt by Russia to "regain hegemony" in areas of the former Soviet Union. "One not only hears from the Zhirinovskiys" the demand for greater Russian influence, he said. "One hears it also from those who speak in much more measured tones." Kozyrev has "made speeches of that kind," Rifkind said.

Kohl said the West must avoid doing anything that would make Russia feel internationally isolated, since that could jeopardize efforts by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to make greater strides in democratic and economic reforms. He said Yeltsin had written him recently to assure that he "will not listen" to those who call for renewed Russian expansionism. But it's unclear whether Yeltsin can withstand nationalist pressures, Kohl indicated. He cautioned Russia not to act aggressively against the former Soviet republics: "We expect Russia to continue a foreign policy marked by constructive participation in solving international problems."

The German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, issued a blunter statement in a speech Friday night in Bonn. He demanded Russia respect its borders and said the Russians could expect a cutoff of aid if they stopped economic reforms.

Kinkel demanded the full pullout of Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia by the end of August and upbraided Russian leaders for using the term "near abroad" to describe the former Soviet republics. "It implies an inferior status for Russia's neighbors that is not acceptable," Kinkel said. The term is commonly used by Russian politicians and newspapers. Kinkel said the resignations of Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Finance Minister Boris Fedorov last month "threaten to destroy trust" in Russia's economic future, as reflected in large-scale capital flight. "If Russia's economic policy can't even keep Russian capital in the country, how can Russia expect inflows of foreign capital?" Kinkel said.

Germany has provided 90 billion marks (about dlrs 52 billion) over the past five years to Russia, more than half of all Western contributions. "There won't be more money for less reform," he said.

Envoy Urges UN Mandate for Russian-Led Force in Karabakh

MK0402132094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 4

[Anastasiya Romashkevich report: "Russia's Transcaucasus Policy. Baku and Yerevan Cannot Be Reconciled Yet"]

[Excerpts] The CSCE-sponsored informal consultations of "the Minsk Group of Nine" on the settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh will resume in Vienna today. The meeting will take place against a rocky background: Starting from mid-December hostilities flared up twice in the conflict area, and Russian attempts to broker a temporary cease-fire failed last week. Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy and the Russian president's representative to the talks on Nagorno-Karabakh, kindly agreed to comment on the situation in the area of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. [passage omitted]

According to the Russian diplomat, the positions of those who advocate conflict settlement by force are still fairly strong, which was actually the main reason a truce due to start 1 February fell through. He complained that the sides' statements on their desire to achieve peace have often turned out to be mere "camouflage" to conceal their military actions. Nonetheless, the diplomat pointed to the statement made by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev 31 January on security guarantees to the Armenian population in Karabakh in the event of a cease-fire by the Armenian side. However, Vladimir Kazimirov said, owing to distrust between the two sides, this appeal is unlikely to find a response among the Armenians.

According to Mr. Kazimirov, claims that Russia plans to send its troops to the conflict area "are not quite correct." What is actually at issue is the need to send disengagement forces there. The operation itself should be multinational in nature, but the national lineup of the contingent is yet to be determined. The diplomat noted that it would be desirable that the contingent be given a UN mandate: unlike CSCE forces, "blue helmets" may carry out forcible operations (that is, to be present in a conflict area without consent of the warring sides). [passage omitted]

Joint CIS Structures Necessary To Prevent Conflicts

LD0702153694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Prominent political expert and head of a group in charge of national politics of the presidential council, Emil Pain, believes that promoting the activities of joint institutions of the CIS is a way for strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Pain said that prospects of the Commonwealth depend not on territorial integration, but on the creation of joint structures which would perform the functions of the court of arbitration—coordination of opinions, ideas and settlement of disputes.

Pain believes that the existence of such institutions might help resolve many problems which nowadays lead to conflicts. "For example, the revival of the idea of joint armed forces would practically resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. The Black Sea Fleet would be subordinate then not to Russia or Ukraine, but to the joint armed forces of the Commonwealth," Pain said.

If there were a single Eurasian bank for reconstruction and development, it would to a considerable extent promote the solution of problems of the monetary union, while a bank in support of refugees and resettlers would help regulate migration processes, he said. The expert believes that on the one hand, the optimum concept for the CIS consists in the development of integration structures, and on the other hand, in the idea of selective partnership at the level of bilateral relations which cannot be avoided.

Pain thinks that "Russia must take a cautions and selective approach to unions with its neighbours and aid to them. This partnership should rest not on the prospect of joining other territories to Russia, but on ensuring stability and safety of its borders."

"In this sense, stable countries deserve better aid from Russia," Pain said, adding that Russia can be satisfied not with any kind of stability, but rather with stability which is based on the operation of democratic institutions.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 8 Feb

LD0802073494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0645 GMT 8 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—ROSSIYSKYE VESTI frontpages a series of brief reports indicating that working people in the Russian Federation are increasingly dissatisfied with their socio- economic position.

Movement may accelerate the progress of reforms or may blow them up. This is yet another poser for the government which is pressed for time in this respect..." [sentence as received]

ROSSIYSKYE VESTI today begins the publication of a series of articles revealing the logic and nature of the formation of vertical ties between local executive power bodies. The first article is by Nikolay Medvedev, head of the Russian presidential administration's directorate for territorial affairs.

Having recalled that the power bodies of the subjects of the federation (regions, territories, and republics) were formed on the strength of "momo-party" lists and that the elected officials constitute the old system of local governing councils, Medvedev writes that, as a result, the two systems of state power in Russia were doomed to confrontation.

"The main task now is to reform the second stage of state power or the second element as represented by the state power of the subjects of the federation. As a result, better prepared people are to take office," Medvedev points out.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on the need to combat mounting inflation.

An article to this effect strongly cricicises Russian businessmen—a "class of proprietors - the main social base of reforms"—for not being in a hurry to boost and modernise production and for prefering "to keep their money in foreign banks".

Referring to the Washington-based Institute of International Finance, the newspaper points out that the amount of outflowing capital is already 30,000 million U.S. dollars, with 2,000 million dollars being added to them every month. "So, who helps whom, we to the West or the West to us is the question. An answer is not without interest, the newspaper points out.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, dealing with the recent mortar attack on a market in Sarajevo, when 68 people were killed and about 200 wounded.

Churkin's opinion is that the main problem in the Yugoslav conflict is posed by extremist approaches by all the three conflicting sides, including the Serbs.

"Those who state that we as Slavs should side with the Serbs bestow a doubtful benefit on the Serbs because they support those of them who push their oun people to suicide," Churkin pointed out. "In any case, there should be a question of a political solution to the problem of Sarajevo and Bosnia as a whole", he said.

TRUD on the results of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent official visit to Georgia:

"One must give due credit to the courage of Boris Yeltsin who decided to visit Tbilisi—the city where no one can be sure that his next step would be as safe as the previous one".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA opens up with a report on preparations for elections local government bodies in St. Petersburg. [sentence as received] The electoral bloc "the Democratic Unity of Petersburg", which unites about 30 organisations of reformist orientation, now stands chances to get the largest number of seats in the city assembly. Members of Russia's Choice constitute the core of this bloc.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on Russia's military doctrine:

"The basic distinguishing feature of Russia's new military doctrine is that it gives the president and the government the right to use the armed forces to fight not only an external enemy but also an internal one as well".

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an article about former Chief Justice of Russia's Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin. The newspaper writes about him with respect and compassion.

Official Reaction to Proposed Bombing of Bosnia

Kozyrev Deems Attack Unfavorable

LD0702190694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] Russia stands categorically against attacks of retaliation on any of the parties involved in the Bosnian conflict if such an attack is not within "the context of defense" of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia. This was said by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev before his departure to Tashkent on Monday evening.

However, the Russian foreign minister admitted that there might be an attack if the UN peacekeeping forces were attacked. "In this case, the UN forces' command in Bosnia must make a proposal on military support, including one by air forces, to the UN Secretary-General who is to conduct consultations with the Security Council's permanent member-states, including Russia," the foreign minister clarified.

In his words, it was "absolutely necessary" to defend the UN peacekeeping forces stationed in the areas of conflicts. "If Bosnian Serbs, Moslems or Croats launch an attack, in response the international community may apply the appropriate measures against them," the Russian foreign minister said.

He pointed out that "there was no way to speak about attacks only against Serbs in the specific situation which has emerged in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Only the defense from an attack committed by any party can be discussed," Kozyrev emphasized.

In his words, the current situation is "very unfavorable for any kind of air attacks." "We will examine all the details. Russian President Boris Yeltsin will make decisions on all specific situations. However, in principle, counting on force is not the most successful way out," the foreign minister pointed out.

Kozyrev regretted that "some of our western partners were in a hurry and did not study the Russian program of a settlement in Bosnia properly." "Our initiative provided for convening the Security Council, reinforcing the security zones around Sarajevo and elsewhere, putting that city under UN control, and demilitarizing Sarajevo and its surroundings by both sides. If the initiative had taken effect, the latest tragedy in that city could have been avoided. No one can say who caused such a huge toll of lives. Unfortunately, as long as Moslems and Serbs are amassing their artillery guns, similar tragedies cannot be avoided," Kozyrev said.

He urged the need for effective measures "not to get caught in a trap." "It was a well-placed trap and possibly a provocation by one of the sides. The incident must be investigated, and concrete measures must be taken, he said.

The minister recalled that "the death of Prince Ferdinand through a provocation in Sarajevo in 1913 triggered off a global tragedy." "That tragedy did not solve the Balkan issue, still facing us today. For this reason, the escalation of violence in the form of air strikes or any other foreign intervention except that by the UN would most likely lead to a repetition of that notorious tragic scenario," Kozyrev said.

In his words, "no one wants it." "That is why I think that the international community will be guided (with all the heated discussion and the indignation that we fully share) by common sense and political reason rather than by emotions," he remarked.

Kozyrev believes that "time has come for our western partners in the Security Council to take a closer look at the Russian proposals. It is possible to adopt effective measures on Sarajevo by disengaging the troops to avoid violence rather than by air strikes that would escalate it," the foreign minister declared. He disclosed that he had discussed the problem with his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher Sunday night.

He noted that a map to divide Bosnia-Herzegovina "was agreed to in principle. There may be only 5 percent that remains for the sides to agree on. Their argument can last endlessly. But there is a way out for them through international arbitration at the level of the UN Security Council, the Hague Court, or any other authoritative body," he said.

Asked by an Interfax correspondent whether Russia would back up sanctions against Croatia, Kozyrev replied: "Sanctions are not the best way. Once agreements on a settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina are signed and concrete steps to implement them are taken, the best thing would be to lift sanctions even against Yugoslavia rather than to impose new ones."

However, he noted, "if Croatia continues outright interference, sends troops to Bosnia and becomes directly involved in the conflict there, the imposition of sanctions on Zagreb may be considered. Would we like that? Of course not. Because Croatian civilians would suffer as a result. Whether such a turn of events is avoided will depend on how restrained the Croatian authorities will be," the minister stressed.

The decision to bomb Serb positions in Bosnia must not be taken until an unbiased international commission evaluates the circumstances of the tragic explosion in Sarajevo, the head of the State Duma committee for international affairs, Vladimir Lukin, told journalists on Monday. According to him, such a commission must include neither Europarliament representatives nor Mr. Zhirinovskiy.

As Lukin said, the UN Secretary-General, Butrus Butrus-Ghali, displayed "some prejudice," when he suggested that NATO structures should consider the possibility of bombing Serb positions. According to the Russian parliamentarian, the UN Security Council should convene all its members to discuss the situation, and "it would be odd if Russia were excluded from this process."

The State Duma, Lukin said, has already issued a statement on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, and it

continues to believe that "intensified military actions will not lead to slackening hostilities, and bombardments with greater outside military interference will not yield positive results."

Lukin pointed out that he himself does not share "the extremist circles' opinion that the Serbs, or, on the contrary, the Muslims, are presumed to be right." According to him, there is a need to "find out objectively what is the best way to reach a political solution" to the conflict in Yugoslavia.

Churkin: Strikes Will Worsen Situation

PM0702183194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under general heading: "Another Shot Has Rung Out in Sarajevo"]

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, deputy minister of foreign affairs:

"What has happened in Sarajevo is a tragic and disgraceful event in the sequence that has occurred in Bosnia recently. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at once issued a statement demanding a swift and objective investigation and also punishment for the guilty persons.

"In any case, there must be talk of a political solution to the problem of this city and of Bosnia as a whole. We believe that such a solution can be found. Otherwise an armed conflict could arise between the Serbs and the international peacemaking forces. The Serbs have expressed readiness in principle to hand Sarajevo over to UN control. It is necessary and possible to urgently define the terms of such a handover. Preemptive strikes against the positions of any one of the sides will only exacerbate the situation."

Churkin Defends 'Quiet Diplomacy'

PM0802123594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 7

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, by Yelena Kalyadina; place and date not given: "Diplomacy Without Pomp or Bomb"]

[Text] It would be impossible to imagine Russian policy in war-torn Yugoslavia without the modest and charming Vitaliy Churkin, a diplomat of 20 years' standing. The deputy foreign minister has studied the situation on the spot, and not just from UN reports. For this reason the journalistic fraternity, which is sincerely in sympathy with him, nicknamed him the "Yugoslav shuttle." So it was him that we asked to comment on the tragic events in Sarajevo and also to speak about the initiative recently advanced by Russia for settling the Yugoslav crisis.

[Kalyadina] Vitaliy Ivanovich, I remember how at a news conference you answered a question about why Russia, which is making a big contribution to the process of a Yugoslav settlement, does not advance its own independent plan by saying: "We are modest people." What now: Have we overcome our timidity and decided to show ourselves?

[Churkin] No. That was said at the time rather as a joke. During the war in the Balkans Russia has repeatedly advanced its own initiatives. Precisely at critical moments in the development of events, moreover. A real danger has now arisen that all the tremendous work which the international community has done in its attempt to resolve the conflict by political means might be wrecked. If a settlement is not achieved on the basis of the plan for creating unions [unii] of the republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation will exacerbate sharply and could entail deeper world community involvement in the conflict—with an extremist approach, moreover.

To avoid such a development of events we proposed carefully preparing and holding a session of the UN Security Council at foreign minister level in Geneva and inviting representatives of the three warring sides in Bosnia to it, together with delegations from the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] and Croatia. The idea in itself is simple. But any initiative can look good, in my view, when it fits in with what has already been achieved. This is the crux of our proposal: to continue a more intensive joint search for a political settlement by utilizing the authority of the United Nations.

[Kalyadina] Two chief questions in a Yugoslav settlement fit in with the well-known "carrot and stick" policy. The possibility of bombing strikes acts as the stick. The carrot is the encouraging prospect of the lifting of sanctions from Yugoslavia. According to our new initiative, Russia will advocate their lifting in the very near future if an accord is reached. And yet I remember you saying quite recently that things will not get moving without compliance with sanctions. Is this a fundamental revision of our position?

[Churkin] No, essentially our position has not changed. The fact that on this issue we have succeeded in getting some things moving is another matter. We have gotten an understanding with the European Union that, once a peace agreement on Bosnia-Herzegovina is signed, the sanctions will be lifted as it is implemented. A different situation is also possible, whereby the Serbian side will fulfill all the demands made of it, while the others will be unwilling to undertake a political settlement. In that case it will be necessary to find an opportunity to lift the sanctions from Yugoslavia on carefully stipulated terms. We must, after all, be mindful of the fact that not only the FRY is suffering as a result of them—all the Balkan countries are incurring losses running into billions.

[Kalyadina] The United States also seems to be starting to think about this. THE NEW YORK TIMES recently carried an interesting item, namely CIA forecasts from which it follows that the economic embargo against Serbia has outlived its usefulness and will very soon be lifted. Assessments by such a powerful organization as the CIA and published, moreover, in such an influential newspaper

represent a kind of trial balloon. How realistic, in your view, is a revision of the U.S. positions on the sanctions issue?

[Churkin] It is obvious to me and to many other observers that the U.S. position is changing substantially. At first, after acceding to power, the Clinton administration believed that the events in Bosnia represented aggression by Serbia. But now the United States is increasingly realizing that a civil war is at the bottom of the conflict. It is interesting that, whereas a year ago the Americans did not accept our approaches at all, they now sometimes quote us when they speak of their understanding of what is happening. In general there is evolution. But I do not believe that it will quickly result in the question of lifting the sanctions being raised, since the U.S. internal political struggle over the "Yugoslav issue" is even more complex than in our country.

Europeans frequently criticize the Americans for not taking an active enough part in the Yugoslav business. But I believe, and I try to prove this to them, that the conflict is taking place in Europe, where primarily European interests are concentrated, and the Americans simply do not want to get involved.

[Kalyadina] The Belgrade newspaper POLITIKA, which reprinted the article from THE NEW YORK TIMES, arrives at this remarkable conclusion: If it revises its views on the Yugoslav crisis, Washington could gain prestige by once again acting in the role an omnipotent peacemaker, and the Europeans should reflect on this. But maybe we should too? Is it not time for Russia to take the "Balkan question" into its own hands?

[Churkin] When a problem involves many countries it is essential to start by asking ourselves: Just what do we want? A real solution to the problem, or a propaganda effect?

We have all emerged from the Cold War, when there was little policy and a lot of propaganda. The main thing was to make some kind of grand initiative. And it was not important that everyone then forgot about it immediately—the important thing was to get in first. But if you require something real it is sometimes more useful if the initiative is taken by your partners. That is how, in my view, the Yugoslav crisis should be seen. We are berated around the world for allegedly being pro-Serb. And if, say, an initiative to lift sanctions was proposed by us, it would stand little chance of success. When the same thing is proposed by the EU, it is quite a different matter. What is important here is that the proposal embody our approaches. Look, after the failure of the Vance-Owen plan a new European version of the plan arose. However, we were the first in diplomatic contacts to talk about that plan's inevitable failure... I believe that quiet diplomacy is far more useful than noisy diplomacy.

And in general it is good when policy is made by those in good physical and financial shape. Every initiative should have material support. It is one thing if we propose a settlement plan and have four divisions to implement it or several billions, say, to restore Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Kalyadina] The question of sanctions can be put as follows: By advocating the lifting of sanctions, will Russia not be helpinmg to strengthen the internal political position of the Belgrade authorities and President Milosevic?

[Churkin] That does not worry me at all. We would get even more bogged down if in seeking a settlement we tried to harm particular authorities. Moreover, there is, as the recent elections showed, no alternative to Milosevic at the present time. This has to be taken into account, as does the fact that the president has recently been playing a very constructive role in the talks.

[Kalyadina] How, in your opinion, will Milosevic's victory help to resolve the conflict? After all, in the runup to the elections he had to think not only about how to loosen the sanctions stranglehold but also how to avoid being suspected, as it were, of undue leniency toward the Muslims and Croats.

[Churkin] There is a general postulate here: the stronger the authority, the easier it is to make compromises. But I would not want my words here to be interpreted as meaning that the Serbs have hidden scope for concessions.

[Kalyadina] Vitaliy Ivanovich, there was recently a verbal duel between your chief, Andrey Kozyrev, and Mr. Zhirinovskiy. Vladimir Volfovich threatened the minister with dismissal if he did not very quickly alter the policy in the Balkans and side unconditionally with the Serbs. In this regard the respected newspaper IZVESTIYA made a dispiriting forecast of growing conflict between the Foreign Ministry and the Duma. How justified was this?

[Churkin] I have quite the opposite feeling. In terms of foreign policy in general and the Yugoslav settlement in particular we will, it seems to me, enjoy considerably more constructive relations with the Duma than with the former Supreme Soviet. There will be fewer attempts to introduce domestic policy conflicts into foreign policy and more work will get done. I, for example, can subscribe almost in its entirety to the resolution on Yugoslavia passed by the Duma. I would make only one addition. I would add the word "promptly" to the phrase "Propose that the president raise officially the question of lifting sanctions in the Security Council." And then sign.

Moreover, in my opinion, the Serbs have realized that nothing will come of trying to exploit our domestic political conflicts.

[Kalyadina] So has it now become irrelevant to ask "Whom do you, our masters of diplomacy, side with—Serbs or Croats?" That, after all, is the way it was put to us at the start of the conflict...

[Churkin] I consider the main problem in this conflict to be the extremist approaches of all three sides, including the Serbs. And those who state that as Slavs side we should with the Serbs are unwittingly doing the Serbs a bad turn, as they are giving support to those of them who are urging their own people to commit suicide.

The conflict in general is so complex that it is impossible to fathom without having been on the spot and gotten the feel of it all.

[Kalyadina] You have been there, indeed many times. And, incidentally, changes in your views are noticeable. Whereas previously you reminded people more of a professor-cum-theoretician of diplomacy, now, forgive the comparison, you are more like a "city manager" of diplomacy. Have you revised your stance fundamentally?

[Churkin] I would not say that I had a pro- or anti-Western stance on the Yugoslav question. But I have always thought that, if we confronted the United States and Europe, nothing would be achieved either in terms of a settlement or in our relations. We have achieved the main aim of pursuing our own line but without falling out with anyone. We have won respect, it seems to me, even among those who criticize us.

[Kalyadina] Given such esteem, perhaps a Churkin plan will shortly replace the Vance, Owen, and Stoltenberg plans?

[Churkin] No, and do not get the idea that I am the author of our entire policy in the Balkans; I merely maintain contacts. As far as plans are concerned, as you can see, for the time being nothing specific is coming from them. It is extremely difficult to divide up a multinational country, where everything was tightly interwoven until still quite recently.

[Kalyadina] What, then, can we do?

[Churkin] We can hope for improvement, including the success of our initiative

[Kalyadina] Excuse me, but I do not somehow very much share your hopes. In my view, the actual UN mechanism through which Russia intends to implement its idea is considerably out of date. The previous commander of the UN forces in Bosnia, the Belgian General Bricquemont, submitted his resignation with the words: "I am not reading any more Security Council resolutions, because they do not help...."

[Churkin] But no other mechanism has yet been devised. So we have to improve the existing ones. Moreover, it is not the case that everything is bad. The United Nations used to be an organization of ideological confrontation. Now times are different.

As far as our initiative is concerned, we will be able to talk about success if we manage to preserve the current settlement plan. When the Vance-Owen plan failed and the "let's bomb" proposal was made we managed to get everyone back to the negotiating table. That situation is shaping up now.

[Kalyadina] So to recall the classic formula: It is one step forward, two steps back...

[Churkin] That's the way it goes. In many respects diplomacy is a Sisyphean labor.

Air Force Commander Opposes Bombing

LD0802163494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1425 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian air force commander Colonel-General Petr Deynekin said that the contemplated bombing of Serb positions in Bosnia for unblocking Sarajevo may kill many civilians.

He told Interfax on Tuesday that he was against the use of military aircraft in civil wars.

"Bombs cannot be used without the civilian population's preparations for warfare. The use of air bombs in ethnic conflicts and in the war in Yugoslavia will be inhuman," he said.

He pointed out that Bosnia was not ready for bomb attacks. Neither civilians nor children are being evacuated, he said.

Moscow Urges 'Restraint'

PM0702160594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1, 3

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "NATO Tending Toward Decisive Action Against Serbs Following Tragedy in Sarajevo. Moscow Urges Restraint"]

[Text] Following Saturday's tragedy, when 68 people were killed and around 200 were wounded by a mortar shell in the Sarajevo city market, the Bosnia situation is extremely tense. Few people in the West doubt that the Serbs besieging the Bosnian capital are responsible for what happened.

On the initiative of France and Britain representatives of the 16 NATO states are meeting in Brussels Tuesday [8 February] to consider air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has also come out in support of such a step. According to him, the decision to bomb Serbian artillery positions around Sarajevo does not require a special Security Council resolution: A positive decision by the NATO council is sufficient.

Moscow is categorically opposed to such an approach. "We do not accept Butrus-Ghali's arguments and we do not believe that the present case is covered by previous Security Council resolutions. There need to be consultations with the Security Council members," a senior Russian diplomat observed.

Russia has resolutely condemned the organizers of Saturday's attack and said that they must be severely punished, but Moscow is in no hurry to place the blame on the Serbs. "The investigation is not yet completed. According to ballistics experts, the mortar shell came from an area where both Serbs and Muslims have positions. Until the Serbs' responsibility is proved, the international community must not take any steps," an informed source in Smolensk Square [site of Foreign Ministry] told IZVESTIYA.

Moscow is anxiously awaiting the results of the investigation: If it is established that the mortar was fired by the

Serbs, Russian diplomats are unlikely to be able to persuade the West to refrain from taking decisive steps. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who was quick to dissociate himself from Saturday's action calling it the "work of war criminals," would be in an extremely unpleasant position.

Although Belgrade does still have a chance to save face by blaming extremists who do not answer either to Milosevic or to Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs. If the West accepts this version, you might merely get a show trial, with the question of the bombing of Serbian positions removed from the agenda.

"The West's reaction has to be rational, not emotional. Before embarking on extreme measures it is necessary to consider whether this would bring us nearer a settlement or, in fact, lead to an exacerbation of the conflict," the Russian diplomat, who deals with the Balkans, believes.

Smolensk Square makes no secret of its annoyance that the recent Russian initiatives on Bosnia were so coolly received in the West. "We were actually proposing strengthening the security zones, including Sarajevo. If our arguments had been heeded, Saturday's tragedy might have been avoided," one of the authors of the rejected peace plan said.

Zhirinovskiy Rejects Strikes

LD0702152794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR], told Interfax Monday [7 February] that "there will be no air bombardment of Serbian positions in Bosnia." He was commenting on the UN Secretary General's appeal to NATO headquarters to consider the possibility of air strikes designed to break the siege of Sarajevo.

If Butrus Butrus-Ghali "heads an organization which is a subsidiary of some country" and "suppresses the freedoms of other countries," then "we and other East European nations will leave that organization," the LDP leader emphasized.

His second-largest party group in the Russian State Duma is outspokenly pro-Serbian when the Yugoslav crisis is discussed.

Asked whether he will propose any initiative if the Serbian positions were bombed, Zhirinovskiy said that "there is no if" for him.

"We reject all kinds of violence. We do not want even to hear of air strikes against Bosnian towns," the LDP leader said.

Lukin Urges Investigation of Sarajevo Explosion

LD0702164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1613 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS— A Russian State Duma deputy has called for an objective investigation into the causes and circumstances of the bomb explosion in Sarajevo on Saturday [5 February] that killed at least 68 and wounded over 200 people.

Vladimir Lukin, head of the foreign affairs committee of the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's new parliament, said on Monday that U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali should have made his appeal to NATO commanders on air strikes against Bosnian Serbs only after such an investigation had been completed.

"It is necessary to find out what actually happened and who may benefit from this, and only after that can one take steps through the U.N. Security Council. Only the Security Council can endow the secretary-general with respective powers," Lukin said. "I would be extremely surprised if Russia is cut off from this process."

Lukin stressed that the use of force in any conflict is fraught with serious consequences. Asked if the State Duma will make any decisions in connections with the explosion in Sarajevo, Lukin said "the Duma does not realise the Russian foreign policy. This is the prerogative of the president and the government."

He recalled that the State Duma had already expressed its attitude towards the crisis in former Yugoslavia by urging all sides concerned to refrain from the use of force and settle all disputes only by peaceful means.

Identity of Perpetrators Pondered

PM0702173194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Sidorov: "Moscow Wants Impartial Investigation"]

[Excerpts] The Russian Foreign Ministry has demanded an impartial investigation of the facts surrounding the explosion at the market in Sarajevo, which accounted for the lives of around 70 people, and the publication of its results. The Foreign Ministry statement, published Sunday, expresses anger at the monstrous crime against civilians and also contains a call for the culprits, whoever they might be, to be severely punished.

The Russian side's position remains unchanged, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said—a solution to the Bosnian problem must be sought by peaceful, political means. The attempts to wreck the peace settlement process that are currently being made by gunmen on various sides could lead to disaster. Air strikes against Bosnia, in his opinion, can only result in the sides' taking a harder line, and every effort must be made toavoid this "last resort." [passage omitted]

According to observers, the incident could not only provoke a hasty decision by NATO to strike at Bosnian Serb positions around Sarajevo but could also greatly worsen the situation in the city itself. Sarajevo radio is already urging Muslims to "unsheathe their knives and deal with the Serbs and Croats living in the city." Clearly, those who

are responsible for the explosion were hoping not least to radicalize the thinking of the Muslim population of Sarajevo, which lately has been increasingly blaming the current Sarajevo authorities for its ills.

'Disconcerting' Questions Surround Bosnian 'Tragedy'

PM0702163594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy commentary: "Who Benefits from the Tragedy in Sarajevo?"]

[Text] Last Saturday a series of explosions occurred in one of the busiest markets in the Muslim districts of Sarajevo, resulting in the deaths of 68 of the city's peaceful residents and injuries, including very grave injuries, to more than 200.

At first the story was put about that the tragedy occurred as the result of mortar fire, allegedly from positions held by Serbian armed formations. Later, when the real scale of this inhuman carnage began to become apparent, people started saying that the fire might not have come from Serbian positions but from some others. Then they started saying that the series of explosions occurred right on the spot as the result of charges which had been laid earlier and which someone (but who?!) set off.

It is beyond doubt that, whoever was to blame for this tragedy, this killer (or killers, [illegible]be punished and appear before a court. Is this not the reason why the international tribunal in The Hague for crimes against the person on territory in the former Yugoslavia was set up? Only I believe that this killer will never be found. There are several points which cause me to think along these lines.

Right after the tragedy, the Serbian side in Bosnia issued a statement in which it urged the holding of an international investigation into the crime that had been committed and guaranteed unimpeded access to the site for international experts. Why would it do this if some people accuse precisely it of the tragedy?

There are other disconcerting points. This is not the first such instance, you know. More than a year ago, also in Sarajevo, a shell allegedly fired from a tank gun killed 20 people and injured dozens of peaceful residents at a bus stop close to the market in the Muslim districts. Then too there were demands for the Serb tankman who allegedly drove up to that spot and fired the shot to be called to account. There were calls for NATO aircraft to start bombing Serbian positions without delay. Then it turned out that neither the tank nor the mythical Serbian tankman had existed. The author of that tragedy was never found.

It cannot escape your notice that both these events occurred on the eve of the conclusion of peace talks among the three warring sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At that time the talks were wrecked.

By the beginning of 1994 the Serbs and Croats had virtually completely agreed their positions and displayed readiness to end hostilities. The Muslim side had also begun to voice satisfaction with the talks. The very dangerous military conflict at the center of Europe seemed to be finally approaching a peaceful outcome. But suddenly (suddenly?) the position of the Bosnia and Herzegovina leadership hardened, and it demanded territorial concessions from the Serbs and Croats. In the end, the concessions were made. The talks were led out of the impasse. But the Muslim side again, for the umpteenth time, pulled out of the talks process and left Geneva virtually without advancing any new terms at all, but demanding that the West make bombing strikes against Serbian positions.

Once again the impasse was being surmounted, and the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims were to meet once again in Geneva 10 February to continue the peace talks process. The tragedy in Sarajevo could prevent that meeting.

But who would benefit from wrecking the peace talks even at the cost of spilling a lot of blood of Sarajevo's peaceful residents? This is the hardest question. In any case it is perfectly obvious that neither the Serbs, nor the Croats, nor the Muslim leadership itself benefit from the talks being wrecked.

There is evidently still someone who cannot stomach the possible peaceful outcome of the Balkan conflict. It is this "someone" who is resorting to provocations, not afraid of blood. It seems to me that he must be sought not among those who are already tired of fighting and shedding their blood. The shortest way to find him could be to ascertain just who is constantly pressuring the Bosnia and Herzegovina leadership and compelling it to walk out of the talks time after time. But this, so it seems to me, is a matter for the international tribunal in The Hague.

Lukin Hits Kozyrev Foreign Policy Style

PM0402172594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "Vladimir Lukin Accuses Foreign Ministry of Loyalty to 'Brezhnevite Diplomacy'"]

[Text] Washington—Only the naive could imagine that relations between the United States and Russia would immediately become cloudless after the word "partnership" was used. "That is not the way things happen," Vladimir Lukin, head of the Duma International Relations Committee, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent.

There is a firm opinion that America won the cold war and that Russia lost and now America has to treat Russia as the vanquished side and dictate its terms. Even though the U.S Administration is trying to act tactfully this does not always come off and does not always succeed, he said.

"What price, for example, the present discussion about who should be a minister in Russia and who should not? Just imagine a situation in which official representatives of Moscow began saying that we will not be friends with you if Lloyd Bentsen remains Treasury Secretary and if he is not replaced by Jeffrey Sachs because we think that Sachs is better suited to your interests and your reforms. Of if Warren Christopher remains secretary of state whereas we would like him to be replaced by Gus Hall, for instance. If

the United States does not relinquish this tendency of trying to teach us what we should be doing in the government no good will come of it."

Answering your correspondent's rejoinder that the United States is stating its terms not for the sake of "friendship" but for assistance and the payment of money which the administration is going to raise from its taxpayers, he remarked ironically: "They are giving us assistance equivalent to half a deputy minister but they are demanding the replacement of a whole government."

Can America make a substantial contribution to the success of the Russian reforms? It can, Lukin believes. For that it needs to "make it possible to export to America the little that we can export right now."

"Look at what is happening with uranium. During the summit meeting in Moscow we seemed to have concluded an agreement. But the U.S. Commerce Department is putting forward around 20 new conditions and is effectively trying to backtrack on this deal."

Lukin is convinced that the best way that the Americans can help to ensure that "we have a more or less decent budget and a more or less decent ruble" is by not creating obstacles to Russian exports.

"That is what we need, not talk about who is going to be our finance minister. Remember all that talk: If we have Gaydar we will have reforms, without Gaydar there will virtually be communism and totalitarianism. Gaydar was no more [Gaydara ne stalo] when Chernomyrdin came and the distribution of money did not increase. Then superman Fedorov appeared and the same refrain began again: Fedorov is the reforms, without Fedorov there will be no reforms. Instead of that, Lukin said as though addressing the Americans, do a number of practical things which will make our life easier. But let the sovereign country known as Russia make the choice of whom to appoint and where and how."

When asked about the reliability of the persistent rumors about differences of opinion with the Russian foreign minister, Lukin replied by quoting Griboyedov: "I would be glad to serve but I loathe grovelling." He developed this idea in the following way: "I have done the job which the president gave me—representing Russia—and I did this as I thought necessary. As to whether anyone finds me convenient or inconvenient, that hardly bothers me." Although Lukin said that he prefers to talk about concrete problems rather than concrete people, the thrust of his criticism leaves no doubt about the active dislike of a number of principles embodied by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

"I am not sure that a diplomat's main task is to be constantly on the move, shaking hands, smiling, and sending telegrams from one country to another about how our leadership is respected in that country," Lukin said, terming this style of work the "ostentatious airport style of diplomacy" and the "legacy of Brezhnevite diplomacy."

However, the former diplomat's most serious objections were reserved for the childish disorder of America-worship, which he calls "infantile pro-Americanism, which has been stubbornly practised by a number of our politicians."

"The politicians of the era of infantile pro-Americanism were about 50 percent responsible for what happened in the recent elections," Lukin claimed. "I warned that in our country with its lack of political culture and its often black and white view of the world there would sooner or later be a situation marked not by an attitude of enlightenment but of chauvinism.

"Today, when a number of our officials are hopping like fleas from Sakharov to Zhirinovskiy and back, all this does not create a sense of the worthiness of our policy. I, fortunately, have not hopped in that manner and I am not going to."

U.S. Switches Focus to Ukraine

PM0702163194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Nadein report: "United States Fears Russian Imperialism and Promises To Look After Ukraine"]

[Text] Washington—Alarmed and annoyed by the new language of political figures in Russia, where even liberals have started speaking with an accent like Zhirinovskiy's, the United States has decided to switch from Russia to Ukraine. This is a result of a meeting between the U.S. President and leading foreign policy advisers.

Two new events which had not been envisaged in the U.S. scenario prompted this review, which by all accounts is not coming easy to the White House. They are, first, the inability of the reformist section of the former Russian Government to win sufficiently broad public support, which became a springboard for Zhirinovskiy's success, and second, the Crimean presidential election.

In endeavoring to avoid both the triumph of Russian imperialism and the Yugoslavization of the post-Soviet area, the White House is markedly deviating from principles which only recently it was firmly espousing.

First, the United States, which has previously put pressure on Western borrowers and investors, the World Bank, and the IMF to make allowances when allocating new loans to Russia, does not intend to do this any more.

Second, the period during which one of the main purposes of U.S. aid was to strengthen President Yeltsin's political influence can be considered to be over. "The impressive performance of nationalists, communists, and other antireform forces in the December elections has cooled Washington's ardor to play Russian politics," THE WASHINGTON POST writes.

Third, the State Department has confirmed that Clinton and his advisers have reached "firm agreement" about the need to support Ukraine's intentions to revive its withered economy and "put an end to disputes with Russia regarding Ukraine's possession of nuclear weapons."

Fourth, President Leonid Kravchuk, who for a long time was something akin to persona non grata here, will at last be able to visit Washington in March. He will be given financial aid in order to weaken Russia's attractiveness in the eyes of the 12 million ethnic Russians living in Ukraine. It is also proposed that the aid will be made conditional on the Ukrainians' agreement to radical economic reforms.

Fifth, the U.S. Administration's reluctance to "pursue new lines in Europe" is no longer as absolute as it appeared very recently, during discussion of the "Partnership for Peace" program. Although Washington does not believe that the Russian Government will want, or be in a position, to recreate an empire on the ruins of the USSR, people here will also do all they can to oppose Russia's domination in this region.

Ukraine is more than just some other republic capable of serving as a counterweight to the trends making themselves increasingly manifest in Moscow, and the United States will try to play the Ukrainian card adroitly.

KGB Spokesman Says CIA 'Most Active' Service

BR0702160494 Milan PANORAMA in Italian 4 Feb 94 p 72

[Interview with "spokesman for Moscow's security services" Aleksey Kandaurov by Franco Bigazzi; place and date not given: "New Order at KGB"]

[Text] The Russian security services may be changing their name, but the spirit and discipline that characterized them until the dissolution of the KGB must provide an example for future generations. This was said by spokesman for Moscow's secret services, Aleksey Kandaurov, who granted PANORAMA the following interview.

[Bigazzi] How will the services be reorganized following the decision to abolish the Security Ministry, formerly the KGB?

[Kandaurov] Yeltsin's decree sets out the broad outlines of the functions and structures of the renewed special services—the struggle against the espionage and subversive activities of foreign services; the struggle against terrorism, against illegal armed groups, against movements with extremist leanings, against drugs and arms trafficking, and against corruption and smuggling.

[Bigazzi] Is there a real threat of political terrorism such as that of the Red Brigades in Italy?

[Kandaurov] There are already some armed groups that have taken up weapons. Right-wing subversive movements such as Aleksandr Barkachev's for instance. Armed extremists are proliferating throughout Russia, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to combat them.

[Bigazzi] Following the demise of the blocs, is there still pressure from "foreign agents"? Which secret services are more dangerous?

[Kandaurov] The CIA remains the most active, like the British, French, and—albeit to a lesser extent—the Italian services. On top of this, agents of the former Soviet republics are now operating in Russia, too. Five Georgian agents and one Estonian agent who committed a homicide have been arrested. In 1993, 20 foreign agents were arrested.

[Bigazzi] Zhirinovskiy is worrying the West. Did you forecast the rise of the ultra-nationalists?

[Kandaurov] Two weeks before the elections we forecast that Zhirinovskiy's party could have win 24 percent of the votes. We were only wrong by one percent.

[Bigazzi] Many people, including Gorbachev, say that Zhirinovskiy used to be a KGB agent. Is it true?

[Kandaurov] Not to my knowledge. In any case, what does it mean, to have been a KGB agent? A number of the present democratic leaders were KGB agents, too.

Paper Profiles U.S. Defense Secretary Perry

PM0702201994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy article under the rubric "Portraits of Foreign Military Leaders": "Pentagon Remains in William Perry's Hands"]

[Text] In launching this new rubric it was by no means our intention to start off by introducing the head of the defense department of the United States—undoubtedly one of the world's leading military powers. But fate so decreed—4 February saw the completion of the almost two-month marathon to choose the new head of the Pentagon.

Reports that President Bill Clinton had chosen William Perry as his latest candidate for the post of defense secretary were headlined in various ways in different American newspapers: "Mathematics Professor Gets Difficult Job"; "Pentagon Number Two Becomes Number One." All of them got it right.

Hitherto he held the post of first deputy secretary of defense, a very responsible post but one, in general terms, with a not very high public profile. In this capacity, as the right-hand man to the retiring Les Aspin, William Perry played a considerable role in preparing and implementing the revision of the strategic concept for America's military-organizational development. He also gained a detailed grasp of all the nuances and subtleties of the budget battles in and around Congress. He also managed to build working, and to some extent personal, contacts with the top U.S. generals.

Addressing hearings of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Perry stated that in his activity at the head of the U.S. defense machine he intends to continue to a considerable extent the strategic course set by his predecessor and former boss. This is not surprising. First, he himself had a hand in formulating this line and, second, the main guidelines of the country's military policy are dictated by perfectly obvious objective factors. There is no way Perry can get away from the need to reform the Armed Forces, nor can he ignore the increasing requirement for American

troops to participate in multinational coalitions, including when peacekeeping operations are being conducted.

However, some new strands can also be detected in the new defense secretary's first public statements. Among these one might single out the point that henceforth American troop contingents—whether they are under the UN flag or NATO auspices—will nonetheless be under American national command. The only exception envisaged is for small units up to company level. Definite conclusions have evidently been drawn from the Somalia operation, whose none too successful outcome had a negative impact on the Clinton administration's prestige and did not strengthen the former defense secretary's position, either.

All the indications are that William Perry will also have a new approach to the problems of forming the defense budget. He does not intend to repeat the mistake made by Les Aspin, who advocated a drastic and substantial reduction in U.S. military expenditure. This is why the word both on Capitol Hill and on the right bank of the Potomac is already that this process is necessary but will be more "cosmetic" in nature. During the Senate hearings Perry himself mentioned a shortfall of $20 billion in the draft budget for fiscal 1995. Avoiding categorical statements as to whether he agrees or disagrees with this kind of deficit, the new Pentagon boss promised to find the money earmarked for paying servicemen's wages at the new, increased rate by cutting expenditure on certain weapons systems. So all the niceties will be observed: We have cuts in the military budget but they do not undermine the foundations of combat readiness (since cutting expenditure on these weapons systems one way or another had been suggested under the previous leadership).

It is easier to understand William Perry's skill or, if you like, his inventiveness when you remember that before the Pentagon he headed up a number of enterprises in the U.S. defense industry, including big ones like United Technologies and FMC, and that he also worked for a big investment banking company in Sam Francisco. The defense secretary's career resume is indeed an impressive one.

He is a mathematician by training who studied at Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania, the holder of many academic titles and degrees, and a member of the National Engineering Academy, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Committee on International Security and Arms Control under the National Academy of Sciences. He has been a member of a group of advisers to the foreign intelligence service, the Senate Technology Review Commission, and the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie International Foundation. In the early sixties he was a Pentagon technical expert, and in the Carter administration he held the post of deputy secretary for research and development and was in charge of arms purchases.

In "scrutinizing" the as yet still a contender for the defense secretaryship, as is common practice in America (it was precisely this which finished off the previous candidate for Pentagon leader, retired admiral Robert Inman) journalists noted William Perry's great erudition. In their words, Perry has a pretty good knowledge of the works of Victor Hugo and Graham Greene. He has pretty liberal views on the role of women in the armed forces. Perry himself has five daughters, and his wife is an accountant and economist.

U.S. senators consider that 67-year-old William Perry will be "an excellent defense secretary" and "a real professional with enormous practical experience." He was given a similar testimonial by President Clinton when he nominated Perry for the post of defense secretary. The new Pentagon boss' view of relations with Russia and its immediate neighbors is not without interest for us. The development of events in Russia, he says, can and must be controlled only by the Russians themselves. At the same time Perry agrees with Bill Clinton's view that help for the implementation of democratic reforms in Russia is a most important priority for U.S. national security and the policy of ensuring lasting and stable peace. William Perry also sees it as one of his most important tasks in his new post to promote the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia.

It has been reported from Washington that top officials in the U.S. Administration offered the post of defense secretary to almost a dozen prominent American politicians and businessmen. Virtually all of them, including Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, former Republican Senator Warren Rudman, and Martin Marietta boss Norman Augustine turned down this honored but exacting post. William Perry joyfully accepted. He believes that in his new job he will be able to worthily serve his country and the American people.

Delegations To Draw Up Nuclear Arms Measures

LD0402202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1643 GMT 4 Feb 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] A Russian delegation is due to leave for Kiev on February 8 to draw up, jointly with Ukrainian officials, a set of measures to implement the Russian-Ukrainian-U.S. agreements on nuclear weapons, the head of the delegation said.

Yuriy Dubinin told Interfax the delegation would include Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov and a senior Defense Ministry official, Colonel-General Yevgeniy Maslin.

Russia "is always open for bilateral negotiations with Ukraine and is ready to help organize a trilateral meeting with the participation of the United States," Dubinin said.

Russia Welcomes Ukraine's START I Ratification

LD0402150994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1341 GMT 4 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Denis Perkin and Vladimir Taranov]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 4 Feb—The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes the steps taken by the Ukrainian parliament, which ratified two of six points in the START I Treaty. An official from the Russian Foreign Ministry stated this in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. In his opinion, this was made possible by an accord reached during the January trilateral summit between delegations from Russia, the United States, and Ukraine in Moscow. A mechanism for implementing Ukraine's decision on the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from its territory was drawn up at the meeting. [passage omitted]

Dubinin Hopes Ukraine To Clarify Nuclear Issue

LD0702123894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Russia hopes that the talks on the nuclear problem to begin in Kiev on Tuesday [8 February] will clarify all issues pertaining to nuclear weapons, leader of the Russian delegation Yuriy Dubinin told Interfax.

He believes that the Ukrainian parliament's resolution on the ratification of the START-I treaty, passed on February 4, 1994, has many "ambiguous places." It does not say, for instance, what percentage of nuclear weapons is to be eliminated.

Dubinin said that on November 18, 1993, the Ukrainian parliament passed the resolution on the ratification of the START-I treaty, according to which only 36% of the Ukrainian missiles and 42% of the warheads were to be eliminated. "This goes against both the START-I treaty and the Lisbon agreements. It's still unclear whether Ukraine intends to eliminate 100% of the nuclear weapons located on its territory in strict accordance with the START-I treaty and the Lisbon protocol," he said.

According to Dubinin, neither is it clear whether Ukraine will join the nonproliferation treaty as a non-nuclear state.

Speaking about Ukraine's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, he said that Russia is approaching this issue calmly. "Russia has already supported the partnership concept. Why should Ukraine not join it?" he said.

Georgia Signs Treaty Out of 'Necessity'

PM0702164994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by correspondents Vladimir Zaynetdinov and Sergey Chernykh: "Moscow-Tbilisi: Friendship Demands Sacrifices"]

[Text] Tbilisi-Moscow—The interstate Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation has been signed. However, there were no happy faces or celebratory salvos fired.

It became clear prior to the Tbilisi summit that no one wanted the upcoming signing except the heads of state. The State Duma came out against it—deputies feared that the treaty would exacerbate the situation in the North Caucasus and provoke another demarche by the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples, which takes all the rebellious regions of Georgia under its wing.

The Russian Government sighed deeply and got ready to grant further unsecured credits.

Russian servicemen, who were about to quit finally this restless region where they had suffered so much strife and humiliation, are unpacking their bags.

The signing of the treaty is seen in Georgia as solely a forced measure. The country's impoverishment has gone beyond all conceivable bounds. People fainting from hunger in the center of Tbilisi are an everyday occurrence. There have been three full-blown wars, leaving aside strikes, blockades, and political and economic crisis. The hopes of integration within the world community were dashed almost simultaneously with the fall of Sukhumi. In these conditions you have to grasp any hand that is extended. So the signing of the treaty by Georgia is not so much a gesture of goodwill as a "recognition of necessity."

There is no doubt that the Georgian radical dissidents Chanturiya and Tsereteli will soon start fighting again for the independence of the republic, as in the seventies.

The local mafia, which has been furiously printing coupons, by no means all of which have been sold, has also had its nose put out of joint.

The Georgian parliament is well aware of the political failure: The country's economy will be revived through Russian money, Russia will set up the Georgian Armed Forces, and Moscow specialists will settle the sovereign state's internal problems. Not for nothing does the old proverb run: "Whoever controls Tbilisi controls the Caucasus." Roughly the same situation is emerging as in the 19th century, and Georgia is acquiring roughly the same status.

The Russian president's visit to Georgia is perhaps comparable only to the arrival of Czar Nicholas II at the beginning of the century. A state of emergency was declared in Tbilisi: The streets, particularly the airport road, were repaired as much as possible, while bread and even other food appeared in stores.

As already reported, Georgian Deputy Defense Minister Nikolay Kekelidze, who was in charge of armaments and tehnical supply in the military department, was killed by an explosion in his own apartment on the actual day of the visit. He kept a small stock of weapons and munitions in his own apartment in the center of Tbilisi. Arriving at the scene of the incident at 1300 hours, Defense Minister Gorgiy Karkarashvili was almost killed himself, sustaining contusions of medium severity—also from a bomb blast.

To protect themselves against such "coincidences" the Russian side took complete control of the airport and all the places visited by the Russian president. The high ground overlooking the airport was occupied by Russian assault troops while the sky was patrolled by fighters. Changes were made to the Russian president's security system: Soldiers on compulsory service were enlisted for

the first time for such an important matter. They were mustered from all sorts of special subunits of the Army and Internal Troops. Their function was to provide external protection for the delegation. This was previously done by "Alfa." This time there were only a few men from "Alfa" present.

Aide Says Georgia Opted for Strategic Alliance

LD0802114094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] After two years of independence Georgia has opted for relations of strategic alliance with Russia, believes Dmitriy Ryurikov, aide to the Russian Federation president on international affairs.

This will serve as a background for work in other areas, he noted in an interview to a RIA correspondent, commenting on the results of the Russian-Georgian summit.

Speaking about the prospects of Russian-Georgian cooperation in the military domain, Ryurikov stressed that unless the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Osetia are settled, cooperation will be impossible.

Yeltsin Approves Accord With Moldova on Army

MK0802095094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kamyshev report: "Fate of 14th Army Determined. Russian Military Will Receive Legal Status"]

[Text] The persistence of the Dniester region leaders in trying to hound General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, from Tiraspol has so far been yielding the opposite results. In Moscow yesterday, Moldova Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli discussed, among other questions, the problem of concluding a Russia-Moldova agreement on temporary status for the Russian army. Should the document, whose draft has already been approved by Boris Yeltsin, be signed, the positions of the 14th Army and its commander would become as strong as they have ever been.

The more than two-year presence of the 14th Army on the territory of the self-proclaimed Dniester Moldovan Republic, on the one hand, has constantly energized anti-Russian sentiments in Moldova, and on the other, has served as a reliable lever with which Russian leaders have been trying to divert Chisinau from thinking about uniting with Romania. Stating the readiness to pull out the 14th Army, Moscow at the same time linked this question with the progress of settlement of the Dniester conflict. Given the sharpness of the present differences between the sides, this formula virtually means an indefinite presence of the Russian military in Moldova. It is not surprising that, unable to get rid of the Russian military, Chisinau would wish at least to put certain limits on their activities in the Dniester by concluding a special agreement on legal questions pertaining to a time frame for the presence of Russian military formations on Moldova's territory.

No details of this documents are known so far, but the political circumstances in which it was approved by Boris Yeltsin are remarkable. On the one hand, Moldova is in for parliamentary elections where, many believe, supporters of an independent state within the framework of the CIS would score victory. At the same time, the conflict between the authorities of the Dniester Moldovan Republic and General Lebed has led to the 14th Army commander's transformation from a hero of the Dniester to an "enemy of the people" and "traitor." Now, after the signing of the agreement with Moldova, the general and his soldiers would be under Moscow's and Chisinau's legal protection whereas Tiraspol's influence on the 14th Army would virtually be reduced to zero.

Kozyrev Condemns 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Baltics

LD0802133594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1228 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has condemned "ethnic cleansing," which he believes is being carried out in Estonia and Latvia.

He said in response to journalists' questions put to him before his departure to Tashkent and Almaty: "Approximately one third of the population (in Estonia and Latvia— IF) is marked by ethnic belonging. This is to say the Russian-speaking population—Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Jews, and even Finns who are refused citizenship. They would like to acquire such citizenship. They are refused for only one reason—the ethnic one. If this is not ethnic cleansing, then what would you call it?"

"If people are called 'occupants' and 'aliens,' they start to act that way. This results in instability," the foreign minister emphasized.

He mentioned another example proving the violation of the Russian-speaking population's human rights. "Everyone was to serve in the army in the former USSR. Now they want to expatriate from Estonia and Latvia not all former Soviet servicemen but only Russian-speaking ones. It is obvious that this has been based on ethnic reasons rather than political ones," Kozyrev remarked.

In his words, "the attempts to repay ordinary people for the Stalin regime's crimes were political stupidity." "I recognize that the Stalin regime did commit crimes. However, we cannot forget that they were committed by the political power—Stalin on the one hand and Hitler on the other, who had concluded the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. It is unacceptable that thousands of ordinary people have to pay for these crimes 45 years later and that the ethnic principle is used."

Kozyrev pointed out that Russia could not remain indifferent to all that was happening near its borders. "The world must pay attention to this inhuman and potentially dangerous situation," the Russian foreign minister concluded.

Envoy Remarks on Stalled Talks With Estonia

PM0402155194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov under the "Postscriptum: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "One Step Forward, Two Steps Back. The Results of the 16th Round of Russian-Estonian Talks Are Very Modest, If Not...."]

[Text] Talks between Russian and Estonian state delegations were held in the Moscow region 1-2 February. As Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation, stressed, the Russian delegation went to the talks with the intention of working for tangible progress but these hopes were only partly realized. The fruitful first day of the talks was completely nullified by the deadlock on day two.

Vasiliy Svirin noted that significant progress was achieved in the preparation of the main treaty on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia and the terms of their temporary presence on the republic's territory. There is every reason to believe that it will be initialed by the two states' delegations in the near future.

The agreement on the social protection of Russian military pensioners and members of their families was examined in conjunction with the treaty on the troop withdrawal. It was a cause of great disappointment that the Estonian delegation adopted a tough and intransigent stance here which made it impossible to achieve even minor positive results. Estonia is demanding that military pensioners who retired after 20 December 1991 leave the republic, regardless of whether they have apartments or not. Taken together with members of their families, that amounts to 44,000 people. Those who were discharged earlier have the right only to apply for a residence permit [vid na zhitelstvo]. However, according to the Estonian Republic Government's decree dated 1 December 1992, this application must be accompanied by the fulfillment of a number of demeaning requirements.

The lack of an accord on the Agreement on the Social Protection of Military Pensioners was the reason for the refusal to transfer to the Estonian side the timetable for the Russian troop withdrawal which has already been prepared.

The discussion of the problem of citizenship may also be counted among the failures of the latest round of talks. A long time ago the Russian delegation prepared a draft treaty which proposes that Russians living in Estonia and Estonians living in Russia be afforded the opportunity to acquire Russian or Estonian citizenship. But the Estonian delegation again avoided concrete work on this document.

The Russian and Estonian delegations also discussed a broad range of border questions. The Estonian delegation blocked all discussion of the question of the land border and is refusing proposals on its demarcation. This is due to the fact that Estonia is continuing its attempts to make territorial claims on Russia. In the words of the Russian diplomat, these claims are futile. Furthermore, Vasiliy Svirin added, if Estonia does not react in the future to proposals to carry out the demarcation of the border Russia will be forced to do that unilaterally.

Envoy Upbeat on Latest Talks

LD0502222294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Another round of Russian-Estonian talks, round 16, ended this week. This is how the head of the Russian delegation, special envoy Vasiliy Svirin, assessed its results:

[Begin Svirin recording] We note with satisfaction that by joint efforts we managed to achieve substantial progress in the work on the draft treaty on the withdrawal of the Russian troops and conditions of their temporary stay on the territory of the Estonian Republic. At the beginning of this round there were fundamental disagreements with regard to five articles of this treaty. In the course of our work we managed to resolve disagreements on four articles. All this gives us grounds to say that the troop withdrawal treaty can be initialled by the delegations in the very near future. [end recording]

French Defense Minister Leotard Continues Visit

Meets With Security Council Secretary

PM0702151394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Federation Security Council"]

[Text] Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council, received French Defense Minister Francois Leotard 3 February.

They had a thorough, frank conversation on a broad range of questions of maintaining stability and security on the European Continent and in the world as a whole.

They discussed problems pertaining to the prevention and cessation of regional conflicts, the preparation and implementation of peacekeeping operations, and the prospects for Franco-Russian cooperation.

Pierre Morel, French ambassador to the Russian Federation, took part in the conversation.

Views Military Ties With Grachev

PM0702142994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 1

[Mikhail Zheglov report: "Russia-France: New Level of Military Cooperation"]

[Text] Analysis of the Yugoslav crisis, the concept of the architecture of European security, Russia's attitude to the "Partnership for Peace" program, and the state of and prospects for Franco-Russian military cooperation were

the main topics of the conversation between Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, and Francois Leotard, head of France's military department, 4 February at the Russian Defense Ministry.

Our military contacts are regular and go back a long way, Pavel Grachev stressed. Franco-Russian combat fellowship developed during World Wars I and II.

The signing of two intergovernmental agreements—on defense cooperation and military-technical cooperation—came as fresh confirmation of the further strengthening of Franco-Russian friendship. They make provision not only for collaboration between our states' military departments and armed forces, but also exchanges of experience in the field of defense enterprise conversion, for instance, and the development of certain arms. The agreement on military-technical cooperation envisages the implementation of 20 specific projects in total.

For Russia the signing of these agreements is all the more important in that they have been concluded with a NATO state. And it was underlined during the conversation that this is evidence of the new level of relations between Russia and the North Atlantic alliance and represents our country's concrete contribution to the implementation of the "Partnership for Peace" program.

A considerable part of the conversation was devoted to Russia's peacekeeping activity. I must be blunt and say, Pavel Grachev stated here, that the world is still not sufficiently objective in its perception of the Russian Armed Forces' peacekeeping efforts. People there often forget that the former Soviet republics are autonomous states. That is why the armed conflicts on their territories and the Russian Army's peacekeeping operations go unnoticed. Furthermore, our country is accused of not displaying activity in the republics of the former Yugoslavia, acting under the UN flag, and that its troop contingent there is very small.

However, Pavel Grachev said, our Army is carrying out peacekeeping operations in Moldova, the Transcaucasus, and Tajikistan. Over 16,000 Russian servicemen have been deployed to carry out these tasks alone and that is more than any of the national contingents involved in UN peacekeeping operations. At present the question of the preparation and introduction of peacekeeping subunits of the Russian Armed Forces into the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone with the participation of UN observers is being studied.

Touching on the settlement of the Bosnian crisis, the head of the Russian military department pointed, in particular, to Russia's commitment to finding a most speedy political solution to this problem.

In the opinion of the Russian side, combat use of aviation would cause hostilities in the region to escalate. Therefore aircraft can only be used if UN troops are directly attacked. What is more, the possibility of using force in Bosnia should be decided by the UN Security Council, and not other organizations. Russia's defense minister also opposed lifting the embargo on arms shipments to the conflict zone.

Francois Leotard and Pavel Grachev visited the Taman Guards Motorized Rifle Division 4 February, where they inspected arms and combat hardware and were briefed on personnel's life and living conditions.

Discusses Bosnia

BR0802112794 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Feb 94 p 4

[Report by special Moscow correspondent Jacques Isnard: "Mr. Kozyrev Suspects Western Countries of Wishing To 'Punish the Serbs Alone' by Air Raids"]

[Text] Moscow—Receiving French Defense Minister Leotard before the shelling of the Sarajevo market, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed the suspicion that the Western countries want to "punish the Serbs alone" by means of air raids which Russian Defense Minister General Pavel Grachev rules out because such "bombing raids" are only justified in the West by situations which he describes as "artificial" and "exaggerated."

It was in the plane bringing him back to France on the afternoon of Saturday 5 February after a three-day visit to Moscow that the French defense minister learned of the massacre at the Sarajevo market, one of the six areas in Bosnia protected by the United Nations and now under fire from 188 Serbian guns according to French intelligence.

Invited by Gen. Pavel Grachev, his Russian counterpart, with whom he visited the Taman mechanized infantry division, Francois Leotard tried at the end of last week to convince his interlocutors—who included Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the council of ministers, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, and General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of general staff—of the need for air support for the humanitarian bridge to Tuzla and Srebrenica, two of the other areas placed by mandate under UN protection.

Mr. Leotard thought he detected a slight difference in tone in the statements of Mr. Kozyrev, the diplomat, and Gen. Grachev, the soldier. The former struck him as "less peremptory and less stubborn" than the latter. The French minister told Mr. Kozyrev that an air operation backed by the United Nations, under the terms of a resolution already approved by the Russians and requested, if necessary, by the local UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] officials, is not aggressive because it would be "close air support" intended to accompany humanitarian aid to prevent it from being attacked. It is not "an Iraqi concept" Mr. Leotard explained, referring to the 1991 raids on Baghdad. Mr. Kozyrev agreed that it is necessary to avoid any quarrel on terminology and that more detailed explanation should be continued. However, he suspects the big Western powers at the United Nations of "wishing to punish the Serbs alone" by these actions.

New Military Doctrine

Mr. Leotard also suggested to the Russian foreign minister that Moscow should support the attitude of France which

is seeking to obtain the international community's "impartiality" and "neutrality" in the Yugoslav conflict. Starting with the United States. Without having any formal proof of this, the French suspect the Americans of arming the Bosnian Muslims by secret supplies, as they did in Afghanistan.

This French request for Russia's cooperation is strange to say the least, addressed to a country which, as Mr. Leotard's entourage admits, makes no secret of its pro-Serbian sympathies—although it denies that—or of its desire as a European and Slav power to reestablish a more active diplomacy in the region after three years of low profile.

With Gen. Grachev, however, the dialogue was more closely argued. The Russian defense minister thinks that the use of fighter planes "could lead to an escalation" on the ground and that these are "bombing raids" aimed at "exerting pressure on the Serbian side" in situations—the Tuzla and Srebrenica areas—which are "artificial" and "exaggerated" for demonstration purposes. Gen. Grachev therefore rules out any "bombing" of Tuzla. His French interlocutors had the feeling that he was also opposed to it in that, to carry out such actions in the former Yugoslavia, the United Nations chose NATO's structures and military resources as its secular arm.

In an indirect but fairly convincing way, these discussions between Russians and French on the Balkan crisis also revealed the ambiguity of the new military doctrine adopted in November 1993 by Moscow. Mr. Leotard was given a commentary on this text by Gen. Grachev and Gen. Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council. Indeed, in light of what is happening in Bosnia, but also in Moldova, in the Transcaucasus, in Tajikistan, or in Georgia, for instance, two more specific points should warrant greater attention from the Western general staffs.

The first of these aspects apparently relates to the difficulty which the Russian military have in designing defensive actions, although their new doctrine is intended to be based resolutely on operations of a nonoffensive nature.

Concept of 'Nearby Foreign Countries'

The confusion—if it is unintentional—which the Russians are maintaining between a bombing raid (which can be a deliberately aggressive action) and air support (which amounts to prevention of a possible provocation) suggests that they do not share this distinction, which is usual in the Western general staffs and that they have stuck to their previous concept based on the offensive.

The second point seems even more fraught with misunderstandings. It relates to the idea which the Russians have of what is called the security "architecture" in Europe and, through this collective notion, the security area proper to their country and the sphere recognized as that of "nearby foreign countries" [countries of the former Soviet Union] according to an expression used in their new doctrine. In other words, as Mr. Leotard asked his interlocutors, when and where does Russia's security start if it does not want to be accused of making the limits of its interests coincide with the borders of the former Soviet Union?

The answers may have varied from one interlocutor to another, but they were close in substance. According to Gen. Lobov, Russia has 60,000 km of borders to protect—half of which are not currently protected—and, with its 2.1 million men under arms in 1995, it would respond to the countries which might seek its aid. According to Gen. Grachev, Russia is the only state in the world to have currently deployed so many "peace soldiers" (1,200 "blue helmets" in the former Yugoslavia and 16,000 of its men in Moldova, the Trancaucasus, or Tajikistan without any UN mandate). In reply to the Russian minister who wanted France to send observers to Georgia under UN auspices, Mr. Leotard said that it would send around six "White Helmets" of the 55 originally planned.

Mr. Kozyrev, for his part, summed up the Russian position on "nearby foreign countries" by rejecting the accusation of "imperialism" or a return to Greater Russia which has often been made against his country's military doctrine. He asked Mr. Leotard how, from this viewpoint, France justified "the legal basis" of its military presence in Africa. He expressed the hope that he should be sent—as a source of inspiration if necessary—the defense agreements on which France bases its interventions on that continent.

Despite the many differences of opinion, Gen. Grachev and the French defense minister nonetheless signed two framework cooperation agreements one of which—by far the most important—establishes the conditions in which France will help to renovate old Mig-21's, delivered for export, and to produce a twin-jet training plane called the Mig-AT [Advanced Trainer].

German Chancellor Supports Russian Reform

LD0802101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0944 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Alexey Korinenko]

[Text] Berlin February 8 TASS—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said he firmly believes Russian President Boris Yeltsin is determined to implement reform in Russia, although not in the ways suggested by some Harvard professors who created a theoretical model. Yeltsin proceeds from a specific situation in Russia. Kohl said this in interview to SAT-1 television network transmitted on Monday evening. The reforms will apparently not be so rapid.

Kohl said his conversation with Yeltsin and the Russian president's supporters make him realise that they represent a proud nation and proud country with great history and traditions. Kohl spoke highly of the recent visit to Moscow by U.S. President Bill Clinton who showed respect for the people of Russia that remains a great power and also showed the striving for cooperation and aid. But this aid should not be self-aid, the German chancellor said.

Regarding the situation in former Yugoslavia, Kohl stated Germany's position of principle. It refrains from sending

troops into the region. First of all, this is not allowed by the German Constitution, the chancellor said, pointing to the need to amend the Constitution. But even if the Constitution permitted sending troops into former Yugoslavia, Germans, for historic reasons, would not be suitable partners.

Kohl declared again for a quest of political solution to the problem and stressed that the forcible change of the existing frontiers is impermissible.

Zhirinovskiy Stresses Russo-German Friendship

AU0402210594 Munich DEUTSCHE NATIONAL-ZEITUNG in German 4 Feb 94 pp 3-5

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "God Has Dictated That We Be Friends"]

[Text] [NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] Mr. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, what do you feel when you think about Germany?

[Zhirinovskiy] When I think about Germany, whether during the day or during the night, then I feel respect and a certain affinity. My heart tells me that our peoples are very similar and belong together as friends. Reason tells me that long-term peace can be secured in Europe if both Germans and Russians want that and will not allow themselves to be set against each other. My understanding of history also tells me that the lesson that is to be drawn from two murderous wars in which the Germans and Russians inflicted horrific losses on each other can only be to return to traditional German-Russian friendship, which was a blessing for our peoples in all areas for hundreds of years.

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] The media, especially in Germany, are overjoyed that criminal proceedings have been instituted against you in Russia for "war-mongering."

[Zhirinovskiy] Some people filed reports with the authorities and there are, of course, forces that want to eliminate me. My friend Dr. Frey has had criminal proceedings instituted against him 600 times and has never been sentenced. I have done nothing wrong. The Russian people and the Russian Army know that I adhere to the law and that I serve the interests of the Russian people, its right to exist with all my strength.

Gutter Journalism

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] The press, radio, and television in Germany have been trying to outdo each other in a concerted campaign aimed at turning opinion against you. You are depicted as an enemy of Germany.

[Zhirinovskiy] Over the past 50 years, Germany has seen many foreign politicians who have been anything but friends of the German people. The more some people stirred up hatred against Germany, the more humble and submissive was the response. I cannot recall one foreign politician who has thought or expressed himself about the Germans in a friendlier or warmer fashion than I.

I do not agree with de Gaulle's words that "the Germans are poor bastards, because they have been ruined." However, I do get the impression that the brain-washing of re-education, which has been going on for almost 50 years, has caused psychological, even pathological changes in many Germans. For example, Mrs. Thatcher writes in her memoirs in an epic manner about how she and Mitterrand sought to prevent the unification of the Federal Republic and the GDR, and for some people in the FRG, they are considered prototypes of modern Germany's friends. However, when I talk of reaching agreement on a settlement of the East Prussia issue in a way that will be to the advantage of Germany and when I also say that history has not said its last word about the terrible injustice of the Oder-Neisse line, which I believe can be revised through peaceful negotiations, then I am portrayed as some evil demon from hell and a fanatical enemy of Germany.

Is National Masochism Something Attractive?

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] The media are really producing a surfeit....

[Zhirinovskiy] ....of gutter journalism. However, in the Russian parliamentary elections, which were held in December, every fourth person who cast a valid vote voted for me, and the Liberal Democrats, whom I lead, are by far the strongest party in Russia. The sick, fantastic stories that are being spread about me by the media outside Russia will not stop one single Russian from voting for me. In fact, it will have the opposite effect. The international media outside Russia can indeed poison the political climate, but they can in no way influence the course of things in Russia. The Russian people and the Russian Army are behind me, and I have become the strongest element in free elections. That is something that cannot be said of Brezhnev or Honecker, regardless of how much one may want to. Nevertheless, the West German media and West German politicians sang the praises of both of them—men who wanted Germany to remain divided forever, and they thoroughly enjoyed continually dropping to their knees and making gestures of submission. Is that not strange?

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] It is indeed strange, but at the same time, it is indicative of the prevailing attitude of the media, which want to undermine German confidence through a one-sided approach to dealing with the past, by developing ideas of "collective responsibility" and "collective liability" that also apply to Germans who have not been born yet.

[Zhirinovskiy] I do not understand how the great German people can accept that. Is national masochism that attractive? Why should such masochistic exercises apply only to one people on this planet, while the rest of the international community would not even dream of being prepared to make prisoners of themselves in a similar way?

No One Can Be That Stupid

From the very outset, I and my friend Dr. Frey agreed that we would not level accusations at each other concerning guilt and that we would trade no such charges regarding the

past. Dr. Frey was born after the Nazi seizure of power and I was born after World War II. There are many horrific and difficult problems to be dealt with at the present time. We cannot change the past, but we can try to make the present better and to master the future. That entails a good German-Russian relationship in every respect. What I would also add to the relationship is a rapprochement in the sense of the Bismarckian Reinsurance Treaty. In my case, Germany's reinsurance treaty is Gerhard Frey.

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] Much of the German media has sought to create the impression that at the joint news conference at the Duma on Wednesday of last week, there were all kinds of attacks against Germany.

[Zhirinovskiy] As everyone knows, there exists a sincere friendship between me and Dr. Frey. We discussed all the issues that interest us in a spirit of harmony during Dr. Frey's visit to Moscow at my invitation from Tuesday to Thursday of last week. How stupid must one be to believe that Gerhard Frey, who has fought for the good of Germany all his life and suffered exceptional persecution as a result, would appear with me at news conference in Moscow or anywhere else and listen to or accept the slightest negative remark about the German people. There cannot be anyone that stupid on this planet! If there is an idiot who believes that anywhere, then he should seek treatment from a psychiatrist as quickly as possible.

They Want Germany To Be Bound

At the news conference, which lasted almost two hours and took place before dozens of TV crews and hundreds of journalists from all over the world, Dr. Frey and I staged a real fireworks display of pro-German projects and policies of the kind that has certainly never been seen at the U.S. Congress, the British House of Commons, or the French National Assembly. I have proposed a joint German-Russian project for the construction of a highway linking Berlin and Moscow via Koenigsberg [Kaliningrad], that German should become the principle foreign language taught throughout Russia, that our students should participate in large-scale exchange programs, and that there should be a free cultural exchange between our countries. I have proposed that Germany play the leading role in the extraction of our mineral wealth, in our industry, and in joint defense projects.

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] You always say in German and in Russian: Germans and Russians—friends forever. You said that at the DVU [German People's Union] rallies and press conferences in 1992 and 1993, at the Liberal Democrats rallies and news conferences in 1992 and 1993, and now you have said so again.

[Zhirinovskiy] If I perhaps said that 20 or 25 times at our joint news conference at the Duma last week, then that will make me mortal enemy number one for the anti-German media in Germany. There are evidently forces outside Germany who are interested in preventing German-Russian friendship by every possible means. Germany should be bound, and remain deprived of its full sovereignty. However, if the two greatest and strongest nations in Europe stand together as brothers, then security and peace are guaranteed. That is essentially so simple, so clear, so obvious, and irrefutable that anyone of goodwill must comprehend it. I said that just as clearly at the DVU rally in the Nibelungenhalle in Passau. There is a video of the rally—"Passau '93: Germany Must Live!"— which contains my entire speech. Anyone who listens to that speech and still doubts whether I am a great friend of Germany must be mad in the best case and is more probably an enemy of Germany.

Con Men Without Scruples

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] Our media are spreading all kinds of fantastic stories about how you want to address a small splinter group at the so-called European Congress in Cologne.

[Zhirinovskiy] People all over the world want to jump onto the bandwagon now. Some unscrupulous con men tell press agencies and other media that I will attend some event organized by them. In accordance with current "political standards," the press does not take the trouble to consult my colleagues, but diligently spreads the false report. I would not deal with such people in my wildest dreams, to come to Cologne and so on. I have also ignored other invitations, some were for the middle of January. I have discussed a whole series of further, sometimes large-scale events organized by the Liberal Democrats and the DVU with Dr. Frey.

[NATIONAL-ZEITUNG] Along with Dr. Frey, you laid flowers at the monument to those who died in the struggle against French imperialism in memory of our comradeship in arms and our national heroes in liberating Europe from Napoleon I.

[Zhirinovskiy] We must recall the great periods in our common history and thus show Russians and Germans symbols for the present and the future. God has dictated that we be friends.

Interior Minister Meets Walesa, Pawlak in Warsaw

LD0702192794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potyomkin]

[Text] Warsaw February 7 TASS—Russia and Poland agreed on Monday to boost cooperation in fighting organised crime.

Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, who is on a visit in Warsaw, told ITAR-TASS that "our cooperation has reached such a level that the time has come for joint activities of Russian and Polish Interior Ministry bodies to combat organised crime."

He said this is the time for discussing concrete operations. Information exchange and coordinated activities have helped Russian and Polish law enforcement bodies solve a series of crimes, including car thefts.

Polish Interior Minister Andrzej Milczanowski stressed the need for both countries to increase cooperation especially in combating organised crime and illegal drug trafficking. He said an agreement had been reached to exchange permanent representatives to maintain contacts between the Interior Ministries of the two countries.

During the three-day visit that ended on Monday, Yerin was also received by Polish President Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak.

The Russian delegation visited several special police and Interior Ministry troops units.

Initial Cooperation Accord Reached With Mexico

LD0802120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1105 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Kravchenko]

[Text] Mexico City February 8 TASS—An agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation and a programme specifying the agreement's provisions were initialed here on Monday at a meeting of a mixed commission for cultural cooperation. The purpose of the documents is to strengthen and broaden bilateral contacts between Mexico and Russia on a new legal-treaty basis.

The initialling, that is the coordination of a common concept of the two documents, enables the state institutions of Russia and Mexico to launch practical preparations for exchanges of performing groups, museum exhibitions and delegations of partner cities, Yuriy Korchagin, representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry, who attended the commission's session, told ITAR-TASS.

The programme for specific bilateral measures in these areas of cooperation also provides for financial and technical assistance in the establishment of direct contacts between higher learning establishments, cultural, sports and other organisations of Mexico and Russia.

Nikolay Bespalov, charge d'affaires ad interim of the Russian Federation to this Latin American country, is of the opinion that Mexico shows greate interest in the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia in culture, education and sports, cooperation which has somewhat slowed down since the break-up of the Soviet Union.

The lack of a new legal basis for the stimulation of such contacts led to a paradoxical situation. At a time when many prominent Russian groups and performers began to frequent Mexico for guest tours on a commercial basis, Russia was not actually represented in recent years at big international art festivals here, such as, for example, the world-famed Servantino, Bespalov said.

Official on Incursions by Japanese Fishing Boats

PM0702172194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 6

[Sergey Bunin report: "Catch Fish, But Stick to the Quotas. Testimony of Commander in Chief of Russian Border Troops A. Nikolayev"]

[Text] Tokyo, 4 Feb—A videotape shown to us at the Russian Embassy in Tokyo concerned events of 21-22 January. On that day our territorial waters in the region of the South Kurils were subjected to wholesale invasion by Japanese fishermen, and a statement ensued from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The "pirates"—and there is no other word for them—crossed the notional border from three directions at once, having first built up a cruising speed of 40-45 knots (almost 90 km per hour!). Cutting through the waves, they plowed in disorderly fashion through the narrow waters of the strait separating the island of Kunashir from Japan's Hokkaido. A border troops helicopter, approaching each of the fishing schooners in turn, recorded the numbers and names of the vessels—NK2-20234, NK-218355, NK-18021, NK2-22134..., Kosio-maru, Tayio-maru, Nogisinko-maru.... These are just a few of the data I managed to note down. The camera also recorded the spasmodic attempts of some of the crew to conceal the numbers in makeshift fashion with sheets of some kind. The "haul" was respectable—in two days Russian border troops recorded 130 incidents of the insolent procession of Japanese schooners under the helicopter patrol, which was carrying out duty aerial patrol of the border waters.

"There is every basis to believe that this was a planned, political action"—this was the comment on the filmed events by the commander in chief of the Russian Border Troops himself, Colonel General Nikolayev, who assembled Russian journalists, including myself, in the embassy to view the video and discuss the results of the recently completed trilateral forum of Russia, Japan, and the United States on maintaining security in the northern Pacific. "How otherwise do we explain the fact that there were virtually no other violations either before or after these events in January? You could hardly call this a coincidence. The Japanese authorities could not be unaware of this—the border troops pinpointed three ships of the Japanese Defense Agency at sea, calmly observing what was happening not far from their own territorial waters. Will we pass this material to the relevant Japanese organs? So far no one has asked us to do so. But if an official request is received, there are no problems."

No such request, evidently, will be received. The Japanese side, whatever officials say by way of justification, knows full well about all the violations. Following the strongly worded statement from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo finally set up an investigation into the protest. So far only something indistinct along the lines of "We have not confirmed such incidents" has been heard.

To all our protests the Japanese stubbornly repeat: But we want to fish. No problem! There exists an agreed quota—fish, and good luck to you! We are not against economic activity in these waters. But when, disregarding Russia's national interests, the violation of borders and quotas continues, we will act on the basis of the law on the state border—in full accordance with and to the full extent of international law. And that includes the use of weapons.

"The incident involving the detention of two fishing schooners at the end of last year is only an episode blown

up out of all proportion by the Japanese newspapers," Nikolayev said. "But altogether 1993 was marked by an unprecedented upsurge in piratical activity—7,000 violations by Japanese fisherman of the Russian border in this region."

Have these incidents been specifically examined with the Japanese departments during visits to Tokyo? This is not yet being disclosed.

"I can say only one thing," the commander in chief stated in conclusion. "This is a sensitive issue for the Japanese. The main think is, that, in my opinion, they have ascertained for themselves that the Border Troops will continue their official combat activity in these waters. The Border Troops now have sufficient fuel. They are also sufficiently equipped with video equipment. The Japanese are law-abiding people, and must finally understand that we will not condone smuggling, the poaching of fish resources, or the violation of borders—no one has given them carte blanche for that. We have offered them cooperation—in that case it would be possible to avoid many questions and conflicts."

Japanese Vessels Admit Fishing, Border Violations

LD0802103594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0936 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Captains of two Japanese vessels detained on Monday by Russian border guard ships signed a protocol on the violation of the state border and illegal fishing in Russian territorial waters, ITAR-TASS learned on Tuesday from the press service of Russian border guard troops.

At present, the vessels—violators of the border, are lying at anchor at the Tyaginskaya Bay.

The situation in the central part of the Sea of Okhotsk and in the direction of the South Kuril Islands is under tight control by Russian aviation and naval border guard troops, the press service said.

Detained Boats To Be Escorted Out

LD0802075594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk February 8 TASS—Japanese fishing boats "Kai-Ei-Maru-58" and "Kini-Maru-53" detained on February 7 for illegal fishing in Russian territorial waters are waiting near the island on Kunashir until the weather clears up. The Japanese boats are being guarded by a Russian border guard ship.

The Japanese boats will be convoyed to the Krabozavodskaya Bay as soon as the storm subsides, ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of Russian border guard troops.

Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Adviser on Government Changes

LD0702215894 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2020 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Illarionov, head of the Russian prime minister's analysis and planning group, who is in fact the prime minister's expert adviser, said today that the present government has in fact commenced the economic and political restoration under the guise of continuing to press on with the amended reforms.

Our correspondent met Andrey Illarionov.

[Begin recording] [Illarionov] The government has unequivocally announced a turnaround in its economic policy, in specific deeds and in words alike. This coup, or this turnaround in economic policy, has in fact already been accomplished.

[Unidentified correspondent] Illarionov says the decision to merge the Russian and Belarusian currencies, the allocation of enormous resources for the agro-industrial lobby, and a number of other decisions force the country to face the danger of an unchecked growth in inflation.

[Illarionov] Toward the end of 1993 the government set itself the goal, the main goal for the end of 1993, to bring inflation down to between 3 and 5 percent. In January this goal was altered to between 7 and 9 percent. In Davos, the prime minister spoke of between 15 and 18 percent. At the last government sitting the figure of 20 percent was mentioned.

[Correspondent] According to Illarionov's predictions, this will lead the country toward the Ukrainization of its economy over the next few months. Moreover, what is in store for Russia is a highly monopolized market with a strong state influence in all areas, including the setting of prices. A letter of resignation was this evening sent to Viktor Chernomyrdin. So far, there has been no answer. [end recording]

In his letter to Viktor Chernomyrdin, Illarionov points out that recently the government has rejected the services of specialists and advisers, and as a consequence of this, according to Illarionov, very strange statements have been made about the non-monetarist methods of combatting inflation, the fluctuating and ongoing inflation, the hyper-decline of the shock therapy, and this, in Illarionov's view, discredits not just the prime minister but also any person involved in the government apparatus, and Illarionov regrets to note that Vasiliy Starodubtsev is among the prime minister's present advisers.

Resignation Letter Cited

LD0802092694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0717 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] One of the Russian prime minister's aides has offered his resignation.

Andrey Illarionov, head of the prime minister's analysis and planning group, in his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, a copy of which has been obtained by Interfax, says, among other things: "The approved present composition of the government and the decisions which it is drawing up (primarily those providing for huge benefits for the agro-industrial and fuel and energy complexes and on the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus), as well as public statements made by the premier make it clear that the radical change in the economic policy started more than a year ago is now complete."

In Illarionov's opinion, the present government has effectively begun to restore former economic and political practices. "Having gotten on their knees before lobbyists from various industries and regions and giving in to their blackmail, it will continue to meet their interests and bolster its own power. Taking part in such activities contradicts my convictions," the aide says.

"You are better aware than anyone else of the economic and political damage done over the past year and a half to the people of Russia and its president by the chairman of the Central Bank, Viktor Gerashchenko. Recently you promised comprehensive support to Gerashchenko. It is perfectly clear that defending Gerashchenko is your position, with which I can have nothing to do," Illarionov says, addressing Chernomyrdin.

"I cannot remain head of your analysis and planning group because I came to the government to carry out economic reforms, not to ditch them. I cannot remain in this post because I have always been trying to defend the national interests of Russia rather than those of a handful of collective-farm and state-farm barons or generals from the fuel and energy complex. I cannot remain in this post because I take a negative attitude to most of the decisions you take and because I have to publicly explain how harmful they are to Russia," Illarionov says.

Medvedev on Creation of Presidential Party

LD0702150994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Nikolay Medvedev, head of the directorate in the Russian president's administration in charge of dealing with regions, believes that the task of establishing a presidential party is a topical issue. In his opinion, the party will play its part in the presidential elections in 1996 and help the voters to make up their minds.

Medvedev said that President Boris Yeltsin is ready to form the party, and that the initiative has already brought about a response.

An organizing committee of the Russian Presidential Party of Reformers has already been set up in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. The committee has proposed that the revival of the country, the integration with the international community, democracy, commitment to solving internal and external problems by peaceful means, as well as to private ownership and enterprise should be proclaimed as the new party's main principles and tasks.

Communists Meet in 'Atmosphere of Conspiracy'

LD0802114994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yulia Kantor]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 8 TASS—A regional conference of the Communist Party of Russian Federation was held here in an atmosphere of conspiracy, well-informed source told ITAR-TASS.

According to the same source, Russian communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov told the conference his party will not join any coalition, and will run on its own in the elections to the local governments.

This declaration met with a mixed reaction on the part of some district party organizations that insist on forming a bloc with the electoral coalition Rodina (Fatherland), with which other communist organisations of St. Petersburg are allied.

Yuriy Belov has been elected head of the St. Petersburg regional Communist Party committee. He accumulated vast experience of work in the party apparat in the Soviet era when the country was dominated by a single-party system.

Prosecutor Draws Up Criminal Case Against Zhirinovskiy

PM0702182394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with V.A. Kruglov, prosecutor of Administration for Supervision of Implementation of Laws on Federal Security and Interethnic Relations of Russian General Prosecutor's Office, by Sergey Kaverin; place and date not given: "Mr. Zhirinovskiy Might Be Arrested"]

[Text] While V. Zhirinovskiy, Russia's chief liberal, was traveling around Europe making fiery speeches and generous promises, the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office was actively drawing up a criminal case against him. V. Kruglov, prosecutor of the Administration for Supervision of Implementation of Laws on Federal Security and Interethnic Relations of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office, gives the details on this topic.

[Kaverin] Viktor Alekseyevich, does it not seem to you that the institution of criminal proceedings against Zhirinovskiy is a kind of act of vengeance by the progovernment forces which lost to him?

[Kruglov] Certainly not. Interestingly, our administration and I personally tackled Zhirinovskiy quite a long time ago, but Vladimir Volfovich committed his main "transgressions" precisely on the eve of the elections. The grounds for instituting criminal proceedings were provided by such points as the arbitration tribunal's well-known 10 December decision and the incident which occurred between Zhirinovskiy and Gdlyan in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses on the night of 12-13 December. The latest episode was the book *The Last Dash to the South*, published by Zhirinovskiy. All these facts were examined by us as a package, and on their basis criminal proceedings were instituted under Article 71 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code—"war propaganda." The decision to institute criminal proceedings was adopted at the level of the leadership of the Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office.

[Kaverin] What steps will be taken in respect of Zhirinovskiy after his return from abroad?

[Kruglov] First of all, the general prosecutor must decide who will investigate the criminal case which has been instituted and appoint the specific investigator and subdepartment. Then this subdepartment will begin directly conducting the investigation, naturally resolving the questions that arise within the framework of the law. The mechanism for conducting such an investigation is known: summonses, interrogations. The investigation will be conducted in full as an investigation into an ordinary criminal case.

[Kaverin] As far as I know, this is something new in jurisdiction relating to relations between law-enforcement organs and deputies, is it not?

[Kruglov] Yes, it is. In accordance with the new Russian Federation Constitution, the status of a Russian Federation State Duma deputy is no obstacle to the institution and investigation of a criminal case. The Constitution stipulates perfectly unequivocally and clearly that the State Duma's consent is required only for the arrest of a deputy, his search, and (or) his detention. I repeat: arrest, search, and detention. That is, a criminal case in respect of a deputy is instituted and investigated on generally applicable grounds; and with regard to the investigation, if grounds arise for a search, detention, or arrest, the general prosecutor petitions the State Duma for a particular deputy to be stripped of his immunity on the grounds of the investigation results submitted. I will remind you that previously, in accordance with the Constitution in force then, the Supreme Soviet had to ask permission to actually institute criminal proceedings against a deputy.

[Kaverin] What threatens Zhirinovskiy in accordance with the new Constitution and the laws if he does not answer the summons? Knowing Vladimir Volfovich, it is not hard to imagine the reality of such a development of events.

[Kruglov] At present Zhirinovskiy is formally considered a witness and is obliged by law to appear in order to testify. Juridically he is considered a witness until the moment he is charged. Therefore at first he will be summoned precisely as a witness. If he does not come, the investigator will be forced to react. How? In the event of a failure to appear without valid reason, an ordinary citizen is threatened with arrest [privod], which is carried out by militia organs. But this is an element of coercion and therefore can be qualified essentially as detention—one of the three points (!) on which a deputy enjoys immunity.

[Kaverin] You end up with a vicious circle: In order to arrest a deputy who is at fault, weighty grounds and, consequently, the State Duma's "go-ahead" are needed. In

order to secure this "go-ahead," the Duma needs facts which the investigation cannot obtain from the "undisciplined" deputy....

[Kruglov] This is partly true. But take into account the fact that any criminal case is built not only on the testimony alone of the person under investigation. There must also be some other studies, materials, witnesses' testimonies, and data from expert appraisals. In principle, therefore, a sufficient quantity of proof can be gathered against an "evasive deputy" to charge him even without his "participation." I wish to repeat once again that all the aforesaid is of a purely theoretical nature, and specific questions in respect of a specific accused will be decided by the investigator who, according to the law, investigates this case and independently adopts decisions.

[Kaverin] Viktor Alekseyevich, how long, in your opinion, will this investigation last?

[Kruglov] I do not know. This is a complex question. It depends on a huge number of circumstances.

Yeltsin Adviser Baturin Discusses Security Issues

AU0702204594 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 7 Feb 94 pp 123-125

[Interview with Yuriy Baturin, security adviser to the Russian president, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given: "We Remain a Great Power"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Yuriy Mikhaylovich, the radical reformer Gaydar has resigned, society is becoming increasingly polarized, and the West is voicing growing doubts about Yeltsin's ability to see reforms through. What consequences does all this have for Russia's stability?

[Baturin] Unfortunately, people such as Gaydar and Finance Minister Fedorov have become the sole symbols of reform. Their departure is then promptly interpreted as signifying danger, as meaning that reforms will be halted.

[DER SPIEGEL] Following this latest government reshuffle, the West is already preparing itself for a standstill and hyperinflation....

[Baturin] I know, but, under the new Constitution, only the president can set the basic directions of domestic and foreign policy. The government just implements his will. In the second half of February, when Boris Yeltsin presents his state of the nation report to parliament, we will see whether he is still serious about reform.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yeltsin's closest allies are accusing Prime Minister Chernomyrdin of having already staged an "economic coup" and are predicting mass uprisings and chaos in the spring.

[Baturin] I do not want to say that we are now on a certain course regarding economic policy. But I would be against seeing things in excessively dramatic terms. One has to let the new government start work before one tell whether it is promising more than it can accomplish.

[DER SPIEGEL] What advice would you offer the president?

[Baturin] As security adviser, it is my task to predict what kind of course of developments would spell danger for Russia. The population was positively disposed toward the reformers around Gaydar over a long period of time. In April, a majority voted in favor of their economic policies. However, shock therapy—the lifting of controls on prices and the scarcity of money—led to great dissatisfaction in the meantime. The result of the December parliamentary elections was the check.

[DER SPIEGEL] There are about 70,000 unprofitable plants in Russia, but only eight filed for bankruptcy last year. What is the shock about?

[Baturin] You may see things that way. For someone who is fit, it is not hard to jump out of a third story window—he will just get up and carry on running. For someone who is not in shape, jumping off a chair can be fatal. Many plants have not paid their employees' wages for months now. Relatively few are well off. On the other hand, there are millions who are living below the poverty line—is that not a shock? These are the very people who determine what happens at the ballot box.

[DER SPIEGEL] So there will be no adjustments to the basic policy course?

[Baturin] Policy must be adjusted by introducing social buffers.

[DER SPIEGEL] New presents of loans for bankrupt enterprises will push up inflation dramatically.

[Baturin] Inflation might go up, but that does not have to lead to catastrophe right away. The same thing might have happened with Gaydar and Fedorov, and who knows on what scale. Besides, if the government departs from the president's policy course too much, Boris Yeltsin will make adjustments—I am certain that he is capable of that.

[DER SPIEGEL] Who actually decides what is good for Russia's security: the president, who is equipped with totalitarian powers, the Security Council, or the new parliament?

[Baturin] What do you mean by totalitarian? There is a clear distinction between the powers of the president and of parliament. The Security Commission at the federal council level and the Duma can make proposals and thus shape national security concepts. Decisions are made by the Security Council. If there are any doubts, the president has the last word.

[DER SPIEGEL] The president has an enormous apparatus that shields him.

[Baturin] Yeltsin's administration really is too big, and that hinders effective work. The team of advisers—there are five of us—is much smaller.

[DER SPIEGEL] In Belarus, the ex-Communists have brought down the head of parliament and are advocating union with Moscow. In the Crimea, a Russian nationalist who has been give the title of president promises union with the old motherland. Will the old union be re-established?

[Baturin] The Soviet Union collapsed overnight. However, the economic, cultural, and human ties that existed have not been broken. It is like an elastic band, it you stretch it too much, it suddenly contracts. For economic reasons alone, there had to be a turnaround in the republics. However, there will be no Soviet Union again.

[DER SPIEGEL] But a new association led by Russia?

[Baturin] Russia is the most powerful republic and is economically in a better position than the rest, which means that it acts like a magnet. As the situation in our country becomes more stable, the former republics will rally round us all the more.

[DER SPIEGEL] The Russian president in Simferopol wants to hand over the entire Crimea immediately.

[Baturin] We have to be very careful. Every rash act can revive political tensions between Russia and Ukraine. That is something that we should not promote. Of course, every people has the right to express its will.

[DER SPIEGEL] Recently, Foreign Minister Kozyrev has been repeatedly calling for understanding to be shown for Russia's "special role" on the territory of the former USSR. What does this "special role" entail?

[Baturin] In the former Soviet republics, there are a great many people who still feel that they are citizens of Russia....

[DER SPIEGEL] The figure that is cited is 25 million....

[Baturin] It's about that. There is no comparable situation in international relations. To tell these people now that history has caught them out, that they no longer belong to us, would be morally unacceptable.

[DER SPIEGEL] Thus, the "special role" is a modest way of expressing great power politics?

[Baturin] If Russia sees itself as a great power, then it must take care of the "Russians abroad." The United States already views Russia as a developing country. That might be true from the economic angle. However, in the past we were also never leaders in world markets, but were still considered a great power. Why was that? Because everyone was afraid of a country that was full of nuclear weapons and had an enormous army.

Now the West is afraid that the collapse of the Union will produce an explosion that will make itself felt in Europe or in other parts of the world too. So, according to that criterion, we are still a great power.

[DER SPIEGEL] Those sorts of views have turned the Baltic states, where you see the Russians as being discriminated against, against you.

[Baturin] There must a tough reaction to tough action....

[DER SPIEGEL] You mean stopping the withdrawal of your troops?

[Baturin] A great power cannot duck for cover every time, that is not the way for a great power to behave.

[DER SPIEGEL] Yeltsin has welcomed the NATO "Partnership for Peace." Will that kind of cooperation not just boost support for nationalists such as Zhirinovskiy?

[Baturin] One cannot exclude the possibility that they will get more wind in their sails as a result. Besides, Yeltsin did not "welcome" this kind of cooperation with NATO. He expressed himself in a rather more restrained manner.

[DER SPIEGEL] In the Army, the number of votes cast for Zhirinovskiy was particularly high. How would you interpret that warning sign?

[Baturin] It was a protest. If there had been reformers who could sell themselves as well as Zhirinovskiy, then the result would have been different.

[DER SPIEGEL] Your tasks include the reform of the state security service. What is to remain of the old KGB?

[Baturin] In the new Russia, there should be no more political persecution, no campaigns against those who think differently, and no ideological uniformity imposed by force. In reforming the Security Ministry, we have disbanded the departments that operated in those areas. We are now forming a civilized counterintelligence service.

[DER SPIEGEL] But the security service generals have doubts about your competence. Are you not afraid that you will fail in the same way as Vadim Bakatin, whom Gorbachev charged with reforming the KGB?

[Baturin] If I was not afraid, then that is precisely what would happen. I have to be more cautious than Bakatin. The new office of security adviser marks the beginning of civilian control over Russia's Army and security structures.

[DER SPIEGEL] Zhirinovskiy talks of a clean bill of health that was apparently issued to him by the KGB. When will the Lubjanka archives be finally opened and the files made available to everyone?

[Baturin] I hope that will happen. It is undoubtedly a very sensitive issue, one that affects the interests of a great many people. One must find mechanisms that will enable one to start on this kind of treatment of history in a relatively painless manner.

New PRAVDA Ownership Hopes To Publish Daily

MK0802122094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Split in PRAVDA"]

[Text] Yesterday, Aleksandr Ilin spent his first day as newly elected editor in chief of PRAVDA.

The ousted Viktor Linnik, former PRAVDA editor in chief, told your MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent in a telephone interview that yesterday a meeting of the editorial board was held under Ilin's chairmanship to discuss the newspaper's future. The new editor in chief formed a new lineup of the editorial board. A number of Viktor Linnik's loyalists, who were offered jobs on

PRAVDA's new board, categorically rejected the offer. MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS already reported on Sunday that Linnik and a part of the newspaper's staff think the general meeting's decision on leadership change to be unlawful, because the meeting was attended by less than half of the newspaper's staffers.

For the time being, however, there is dual power reigning in the publication. Both Linnik and Ilin continue to occupy their former offices—the former, the editor in chief's; the latter, the deputy editor's. According to Ilin, from now on, thanks to straightening out the conflict with Steel Light Holding, a Greek company, the newspaper will be published daily. By the time MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS was signed into press, however, no order to print PRAVDA had been given to the Pressa publishing house's printing shops.

Media Appeal Court Edict, Statute

PM0702094794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Feb 94 First Edition p 4

[Edict No. 228 of the Russian Federation President "On Approving the Statute on the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation President," dated 31 January 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin; followed by the "Statute on the Appeal Court for Information Disputes Under the Russian Federation President"]

[Text] 1. The Statute on the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation President is to be approved.

2. The chairman of the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation president is to ensure extensive coverage in the mass media of the work of the Appeal Court.

3. This edict comes into force the moment it is published.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 31 January 1994

Statute on the Appeal Court for Information Disputes Under the Russian Federation President

I. General Provisions

1. The Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation president (hereinafter the Appeal Court) has been formed in accordance with Edict No. 2335 of the Russian Federation president of 31 December 1993 and is a state organ under the Russian Federation president.

2. The Appeal Court's main task is to assist the Russian Federation president in his efficient exercise of his constitutional powers as the guarantor of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests in the mass information sphere enshrined in the Russian Federation Constitution.

3. The Appeal Court is guided in its activity by the Russian Federation Constitution, federal laws, the Russian Federation president's edicts, the Russian Federation Government's decrees, and also the principles of legality, justice, objectivity, collective decisionmaking, glasnost, and openness.

The Appeal Court exercises its functions independently, and interference in its activity is not permitted.

4. In accordance with the task entrusted to it, the Appeal Court fulfills the following main functions:

it assists the Russian Federation president in ensuring rights and freedoms in the mass information sphere;

it helps to ensure the objectivity and reliability of reports in the mass media which affect public interests;

it ensures compliance with the principle of equal rights in the mass information sphere;

it ensures the protection of the moral interests of children and young people in the mass media;

it promotes the realization of the principle of political pluralism in news and sociopolitical television and radio programs;

it resolves disputes over the distribution of radio and television airtime for factions being created in the Federal Assembly;

it issues instructions on rectifying factual errors in mass media news reports which affect public interests.

5. The Appeal Court participates in drawing up drafts of legislative acts on the mass media and on the right of citizens to information which are prepared in order to exercise the right of legislative initiative of the Russian Federation president. It gives a ruling on drafts of the Russian Federation president's edicts on questions of the mass media's activity.

6. The Appeal Court consists of the chairman, his deputy, and the members of the Appeal Court.

Persons making up the Appeal Court are appointed to and fired from their post by the Russian Federation president.

Following a representation from the Appeal Court chairman, its composition can be enlarged by the Russian Federation president.

7. The Appeal Court has a seal with its own name.

The Appeal Court is financed out of appropriations for the maintenance of the Russian Federation president's Administration.

II. The Appeal Court's Competence

8. The Appeal Court resolves disputes and other matters which arise in the sphere of the mass media's activity, apart from those which the law allocates to the jurisdiction of Russian Federation courts.

The Appeal Court examines disputes and other matters stemming from the demands of the universally recognized principles and norms of international law and of the

Russian Federation's international treaties, as well as from the demands of the norms of journalistic ethics, particularly ethics concerning the mass media.

The question of the Appeal Court's jurisdiction over a specific matter is decided by the the Appeal Court's staff examining the matter.

9. The Appeal Court investigates disputes stemming from:

an infringement of the freedom of mass information, including a violation of the right of an editorial office of a mass media source or a journalist to request and obtain information of public significance, or the establishment of restrictions on contacts with journalists and on the passing to them of information, with the exception of information which constitutes a state, commercial, or other secret specially protected by law;

the need to promptly ensure the rectification (refutation) of factual errors in mass media's news reports affecting public interests;

lack of objectivity and reliability in reports in the mass media, including ones founded on rumors, unverified data, or false information;

violations of the principle of equal rights in the mass information sphere, including the restriction of a journalist's rights on social, racial, ethnic, linguistic, or religious grounds;

an infringement of the moral interests of children and young people in the mass media, including television and radio broadcasts;

violations of the principle of political pluralism in news and sociopolitical television and radio broadcasts;

the distribution of television and radio airtime for factions being created in the Federal Assembly.

10. Within the confines of its competence the Appeal Court makes decisions which are final on the information disputes and other matters which it examines.

State organs and their officials, to whom a decision of the Appeal Court is addressed, report to the Appeal Court on the execution of the decision within two weeks.

11. The Appeal Court has the right to put representations to the appropriate organs on their issuing of written warnings to the founder and (or) editorial office (chief editor) in accordance with the demands of Article 16 of the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media."

The Appeal Court has the right to put representations to a court on terminating the activity of a mass media source whose founder and (or) editorial office (chief editor) was issued with written warnings within the time laid down in the law.

12. The Appeal Court has the right to reprimand a journalist who violates generally accepted ethical norms and, in the event of his violation of legislation on the mass media, to raise with the appropriate organ (leader) the question of instituting against him the proceedings laid down in the legislation.

13. In the event of an official's systematic violation of the information rights of citizens, journalists, and editorial offices of mass media, the Appeal Court has the right to raise with the appropriate organ (leader) the question of instituting against this official the proceedings laid down in the legislation.

The results of an examination of the materials on a violation of rights and freedoms in the mass information sphere forwarded by the Appeal Court to the appropriate organs and organizations are reported to the Appeal Court within one month.

14. If, during the examination of an information dispute or other matter, the Appeal Court establishes an abuse of mass information freedom for the purposes of committing criminally indictable actions and also the selling by officials of information which they were obliged, in accordance with legislation, to forward gratis to journalists and mass media editorial offices, then the Appeal Court forwards the materials on these violations to prosecutor's office organs.

15. During election campaigns the Appeal Court, in accordance with the provisions of electoral legislation, ensures equal access to the mass media for candidates and electoral associations and their equal use of the mass media and fulfills other functions laid down in electoral legislation.

16. The Appeal Court submits to the Russian Federation president each year a report on the state of affairs in the Russian Federation with regard to observance of mass information freedom.

III. Organization and Activity of the Appeal Court

17. The Appeal Court examines information disputes and other matters on the basis of the standing orders of the Appeal Court adopted by the Appeal Court.

18. The Appeal Court and its members have the right to ask state organs and mass media editorial offices for the materials necessary for exercising the functions of the Appeal Court. The submission of such materials is obligatory.

19. The Appeal Court has the right to demand from the leaders of mass media editorial offices, other officials, and journalists written explanations relating to unethical actions which have been perpetrated.

20. The Appeal Court has the right to examine information disputes and other matters both as the result of complaints and applications from interested persons and on its own initiative.

21. Following proposals by federal organs of state power, the Appeal Court has the right to submit an expert ruling on questions within its competence, as well as recommendations on the application of legislation on the mass media.

22. On questions within its competence the Appeal Court has the right to entrust the preparation and submission of analytical and other materials and expert rulings to the appropriate organizations and specialists on a contract

basis within the limits of the expenditure laid down for these purposes in the estimate.

23. The Appeal Court's recommendations and its most important decisions are liable to obligatory publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. In addition, they are given extensive public coverage via other mass information channels.

24. To ensure the activity of the Appeal Court, the Secretariat of the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation president is formed as its working organ within the Russian Federation president's Administration, with the rights of a department.

The structure and the numerical strength of the working apparatus (the Appeal Court Secretariat) are approved by the leader of the Russian Federation president's Administration.

25. The chairman of the Appeal Court or, in his absence, his deputy represents the Appeal Court inside and outside the country.

26. In organizing the activity of the Appeal Court, the chairman:

fulfills the functions envisaged in this statute and the standing orders, including directing the preparation of Appeal Court sessions, convenes Appeal Court sessions, and chairs Appeal Court sessions;

sends representations to the leader of the Russian Federation president's Administration on questions of hiring and firing secretariat employees, encouraging them, imposing penalties, concluding labor agreements and contracts, and exercising other powers in accordance with labor legislation.

The functions of the deputy are determined by the Appeal Court chairman.

27. Office work associated with the Appeal Court's activity is organized by the secretary of the Appeal Court, who directs the working apparatus—the secretariat—of the Appeal Court and also fulfills other functions envisaged in the standing orders.

28. The members of the Appeal Court are independent and impartial in the execution of their duties. They distribute their duties by mutual agreement.

Appeal Court members with a direct or indirect interest in a dispute or other matter under examination do not participate in the session of the Appeal Court which examines this specific dispute or matter.

29. Appeal Court sessions, apart from working ones, are open. Information on the place and time of an open session of the Appeal Court and also on the disputes and other matters submitted for its examination is reported to the mass media or otherwise brought to the notice of citizens no later than six hours before the start of the session.

A session of the Appeal Court is legally empowered if attended by at least two-thirds of the total number of its members.

30. Decisions, recommendations, expert rulings, and statements of the Appeal Court are adopted by a majority of the total number of Appeal Court members, but on questions of submitting proposals to a court to terminate the activity of a mass media source, submitting proposals to issue warnings to the founders and (or) editorial offices (chief editors) of mass media, and issuing reprimands to journalists and officials—on the basis of a consensus (general agreement). The reaching of a consensus is recorded in the minutes of the Appeal Court session, which are signed by all the Appeal Court members present.

Decisions, recommendations, and statements of the Appeal Court come into force the moment they are adopted.

31. In terms of the level of labor remuneration and social and consumer, transport, and medical services the Appeal Court chairman, his deputy, and the Appeal Court members are equated with employees of the Russian Federation president's Administration: The Appeal Court chairman is equated with the chief of the Administration, his deputy with the first deputy chief of the Administration, and the Appeal Court members with the deputy chief of the Russian Federation president's Administration.

The appropriate increments in labor remuneration for the complexity of the work and its special regime apply to them, as do other established increments and payments.

32. Material and technical support for the activity of the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation president and social and consumer, transport, and medical services for the Appeal Court chairman, his deputy, the Appeal Court members, and also employees of the working apparatus (Appeal Court Secretariat) are provided by the Russian Federation president's Administration of Affairs and by other appropriate subdivisions of the Russian Federation president's Administration.

Economic Issues

Economics Minister 'Determined' To Cut Inflation

LD0802115394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—The Russian Government is determined to cut the inflation rate to 7-9 percent and the state budget deficit to 7-7.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product by the end of this year, according to Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin. He was speaking at the congress "reality and prospects for the development of the economy in Russia, which is being held in Moscow within the framework of the international forum "wold experience and the Russian economy".

Shokhin said the government's priorities this year include financial stabilization, combatting inflation and toughening the tax and financial discipline. With this in mind the government plans to cut budget spending and encourage effective use of budgetary resources.

According to Aleksandr Shokhin, any projects that require funding from the budget, will be first examined by experts to see if they meet stringent international standards. Any benefits provided by the state must be fully and comprehensively accounted for by the recipient enterprises in reports on their activity and financial incomes of their leaders. Shokhin said this approach will increase the revenue. Last year's revenue reached 65-70 percent of the plan. This year's target is 80 percent.

Gap Between Wage, Price Rises Widen in 1993

LD0802094494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0717 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] In December of 1993 the average wages in Russia were eight times higher compared to December, 1992, while prices rose almost ten-fold. This is stated in a report on the situation in the social and labor area prepared by experts from Russia's Labor Ministry. The report was forwarded to Interfax.

According to the report, in 1993 the gap between people's wages widened considerably. For example, the average salaries of the highest-paid officials (10% of the work force) were 27 times higher than the wages of low-paid workers who make up the same percentage.

At a number of facilities directors' salaries were 12 to 15 times higher than the wages of their employees.

According to the report, the growth of salaries lost any connection with the final results of production. "The dynamics of price increases are a decisive factor in this process," the document points out.

The wages of about one half of government employees continue to remain below subsistence minimum, the report says.

Labor Ministry Analyzes Incomes, Living Standards

PM0802102994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Tatyana Khudyakova report: "Incomes Rise But So Does Number of Poor People"]

[Text] The Labor Ministry has summarized some results of the year of 1993, just ended, and has categorized as achievements the stabilization of Russians' living standards and the nonappearance of mass unemployment.

However great the temptation, we must nonetheless not be too quick to rejoice. According to official data published by the same Labor Ministry, last year the population's money incomes increased 9 percent. Evidently the incomes only of the section of the population whose incomes are 27 times higher than those of the lowest paid people.

The main bulk of Russians (77 percent) had incomes lower than double the subsistence wage, which was 50,000 rubles [R] in December. One-third of this number were below even the subsistence wage. According to an expert assessment about 13 percent of people on low incomes were frankly suffering from malnutrition.

If it is considered that things are no worse than in 1992, that means that a certain stabilization of incomes is taking place. Although specialists claim that new paupers have appeared in Russia. They are citizens who are perfectly able to work but whose incomes do not sustain any sort of life, since they are below the subsistence wage.

The labor market situation looks like the calm before the storm. Official unemployment continues to be negligible and does not exceed 1 percent of the number of employed people. But so-called hidden unemployment is increasing—according to various assessments, between 4 and 7 million people are not working full days or are on unpaid administrative leave.

Wages are a headache for the government. This powerful engine of progress has lost all sense in our country. People in work are not happy because by December wages had increased 700 percent while prices had increased 900 percent. The government is concerned because the monthly wage increases are blatantly inflationary. Money is being pumped into the consumer market thanks to endless increases in prices for energy, transport, raw materials, and so on. Manpower is still cheap, but it seems that quantity and quality of labor will not be in demand as economic categories for a while yet.

But a new phenomenon has been discovered. The average industrial wage is R140,000, while the average wage in, for example, commercial banks is R1.5 million. That is not all. Leaders of enterprises, even of those which have long had one foot in the grave, are concluding contracts with themselves and setting wages that are sometimes 100 times higher than the average wage of workers at the same enterprise. How can this be combated? It is rumored that the government intends to put an end to this outrage but does not yet know how to do it.

Trade Union Leaders Demand Chernomyrdin Meeting

PM0802111994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 8 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by Fedor Demchenko: "Trade Unions Set Ultimatum"]

[Text] The leaders of eight trade unions of the base industries have addressed a collective message to Russian Government head V. Chernomyrdin. The activity of the organs of management and the government's economic policy, the message says, are leading to the winding down of Russian industry, mass unemployment, and the further growth of social tension in labor collectives.

The tough financial and tax policy, the release of prices for energy carriers, and the drastic increase in charges for rail shipments have led to the point where enterprises have virtually no working capital left. The fines stipulated for defaulting on payments (over 700 percent per annum), the message stresses, are in excess of all sensible limits. Enterprises are obliged to take short-term credits at commercial banks at extortionate interest rates. As a result the labor

collectives are being plunged deeper and deeper into poverty. At the same time "a small group of the financial oligarchy is earning gigantic profits."

Our numerous appeals to the president and government on problems requiring immediate solution, the message's signatories stress, are not meeting with a proper response. Government instructions, given the present turnover rate among leaders, are not being fulfilled. On instructions from members of the trade union we insist on an immediate meeting with you personally, the message concludes.

Military, Nuclear, & Space Issues

Grachev Briefs Officers on Problems in Armed Forces

LD0702223694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1751 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Samara, 7 Feb—The main aim of the working visit by representatives of the Russian Armed Forces command to the Volga Military District is to test issues concerning the coordination of military doctrine and practice, on the spot, and to study problems of military training and the stationing of troops. Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated this at a meeting in Samara with managers and officers of the Volga Military District.

Touching on the problems of Russia's Armed Forces, Pavel Grachev noted that the army draft was carried out in a reasonably organized fashion last year. Russia's Armed Forces currently have 60 percent of their full complement of staff. It is proposed that 70-75 percent of the posts in Russia's Armed Forces should be filled after this year's spring recruitment and 85-90 percent by the end of the year. In the minister's opinion, this will enable the Russian Army to carry out the tasks it is faced with in guaranteeing the state's security. The defense minister noted that he has prepared a directive on the reform of the system of educational work in the troops, the focus of which is to be moved to the localities. Touching on problems of housing Russian Army subunits withdrawn from abroad, Grachev noted that since 1992 270,000 servicemen, around 3,000 tanks, 6,000 armored vehicles, and around 1,500 aircraft have been withdrawn onto Russian territory. In connection with this, providing facilities for servicemen is one of the most important tasks facing the Russian Defense Ministry today. Speaking about the reduction in the overall numbers in the Russian Army, the minister stated that Russia's Armed Forces have to be reduced to 2 million by 1 January 1995. This, according to him, is the limit for troop reduction. At the present time Russia's Armed Forces number 2,341,000.

Grachev also spoke of the planned transition to the territorial command principle. All arms of service on his territory should be subordinate to the district commander. In the minister's opinion, this should ensure that they are reliably controlled. Touching on the financial position of Russia's Armed Forces, Grachev noted that the government was in debt to the army to the tune of around 2.3 trillion rubles in 1993.

This evening the Russian minister held a meeting with heads of the Samara Oblast and town administrations. Problems concerning social provision for the district's troops were discussed.

Says Army Units 60 Percent Manned

LD0702212694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1911 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's army is to be 2 million-men-strong by January 1, 1995. This was declared by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev at a meeting with the commanders and senior officers of the Volga Region's Military District. The meeting took place in Samara.

In Grachev's words, it is "the final figure," after which the reduction of the Russian army is to be stopped. The army currently has 2.34 Mn men.

Grachev described the last army draft as "more or less successful." In his words, the units are manned only at 60 percent today. The figure is to be raised to 70-75 percent by the spring, and to 85-90 percent by the autumn.

He disclosed that Russia had withdrawn more than 270,000 troops, 3,100 tanks, 6,000 armored vehicles, and 1,500 aircraft from CIS and other countries since 1992.

He also revealed that Russia planned to set up 28 military bases in CIS states.

The minister spoke in favor of a territorial command scheme, under which the headquarters of a district be responsible for all the armed services on their territory. In his words, this process will get under way next year, and until then, legal and theoretical prerequisites should be created. In his opinion, the new scheme will bolster defenses and improve troop management.

Outlines Russia's Peacekeeping Mission

LD0702211794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Radio Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Pavel Grachev, Army general and Russian defense minister, recently summed up the results of our servicemen's peacekeeping operations.

[Begin Grachev recording] We act as peacekeepers in Moldova, in the conflict between Moldova and the Dniester region; and we act as peacekeepers in Transcaucasus and Tajikistan. The total number of Russian peacekeepers is 16,000 men, more than all other countries' peacekeepers combined. We are active peacekeepers and we would like to settle conflicts in various regions of the former USSR, not just by ourselves but by joining forces with others. We are particularly interested in three hot spots: Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh; Georgia, Abkhazia and,

South Ossetia, and the problem of Georgia's integrity and its political future; and Tajikistan. [end recording]

Officers Reject MVD Move, Seek Discharge

PM0702122194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Igor Chernyak report under "From the Life of the Special Services" rubric: "'Vympel' Discards Flak Jackets"]

[Text] According to an officer in the "Vympel" counterterrorist subunit, 110 of the 180 officers in the subunit have now submitted a formal discharge request. The reason for this is their disagreement with Boris Yeltsin's edict transferring "Vympel" from the former Russian Federation Security Ministry to the jurisdiction of the Internal Affairs Ministry.

"Vympel" is the well-known special subunit which was previously intended for combat operations and counterterrorist operations, including those carried out abroad. It was intended that "Vympel" would take part, along with "Alfa," in the October events and the taking of the White House, but the majority of officers in the special subunit refused to participate in the storming and on 4 October sat in buses near the U.S. Embassy.

A highly placed source in the Federal Counterintelligence Service, who asked not to be named because "Vympel" had left them in the fall of 1993, reported nevertheless that the special subunit had effectively collapsed. According to him, on the eve of the October events "Vympel" was transferred to the command of the Russian Federation Main Protection Directorate, and then followed the president's edict transferring it to the Internal Affairs Ministry system. However, according to the Russian Federation Law "On the Status of Servicemen," men in uniform cannot be transferred to another department without their agreement. The source stressed that, according to his information, the officers of the special subunit had come to serve not directly in "Vympel" but in the state security service, which for them was fundamental. He confirmed that the overwhelming majority of "Vympel" officers and NCO's, not wishing to serve under Hero of Russia Viktor Yerin [the internal affairs minister], had applied for discharge.

According to the law, this can be regarded as discharge in connection with personnel organizational changes, which brings with it the retention of pensions and all benefits. However, in the source's opinion, terrorism has existed and will continue to exist notwithstanding the wishes of the country's authorities, and it is fundamentally impossible to rely on "Alfa" alone to combat terrorism; therefore the question of creating new counterterrorist groups will arise in the very near future.

According to the source, money or benefits is not the main issue for the former state security officers. He cited by way of example the reaction of the Lefortovo detention center's guards to its transfer to the Internal Affairs Ministry system. According to the source, the overwhelming majority of Lefortovo guards also intend to submit severance notices.

Nuclear, Radiation Safety 'Unsatisfactory'

LD0802095894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0717 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The State Committee for Control over Atomic Safety (Gosatomnadzor) said the state of nuclear and radiation safety in Russia is unsatisfactory.

The body came to this conclusion after an inspection of the safety of all nuclear and radiation-emanating installations in the country carried out last year in accordance with Boris Yeltsin's decision.

According to Gosatomnadzor, issues related to use of nuclear power, materials and substances in both peaceful and defense purposes are solved very slowly as they lack a legislative basis. As a result, re-cycling or dumping spent nuclear fuel alone will require considerable financial and material costs.

At present, as many as 29 nuclear reactors with total capacity of 21242 Megawatt function in Russia, including 13 VVER, 11 RBMK-1000, 4 low-capacity EGP-6 and one fast neutron BN-600. All these reactors were launched between 1971 and 1990, except for the fourth reactor of the Balakovskaya nuclear power station which was launched in 1993.

There were no serious accidents at nuclear power stations in 1993 which would lead to releasing significant amounts of nuclear materials into the atmosphere or hazardous fires, except for several instances of overheating. About half of the accidents were caused by reckless maintenance of the equipment by personnel.

Commenting on the state of the equipment, the committee pointed out that the reactors were maintained according to the safety requirements which were valid when the reactors were launched. At the moment, the reactors fail to comply with the modern safety requirements. The committee said the first-generation reactors installed at such stations as Novovoronezhskaya, Kolskaya, Leningradskaya, Kurskaya and Bilibinskaya were designed before the basic documents on atomic safety were released in Russia. Now they need drastic reconstruction, and such work is being carried out. The first and second reactors of the Novovoronezhskaya and Beloyarskaya stations have been closed down to be subsequently dumped.

An analysis of the accidents which occurred in 1991-1993 showed a sharp aggravation of the situation at the Kolskaya nuclear power station caused by poor maintenance and repair of its equipment.

Gosatomnadzor also pointed out that spent nuclear fuel is practically not taken out of the stations equipped with RBMK and EGP reactors, while its removal from other stations is not fast enough. The accumulation of spent nuclear fuel may cause a situation when there is no free space to dispose of the reactor's entire active area in an emergency as safety requirements demand. At present,

none of Russia's nuclear power stations is equipped with the entire complex of installations for dumping liquid and solid nuclear waste. The nuclear storage facilities are filled to an average of 70% of capacity. The committee believes that the storage capacities may be exhausted in 2-3 years, given the current speed of piling up nuclear waste.

'Mir', 'Discovery' To Be Linked Via Radio

LD0802113794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Mission Control Centre February 8 TASS—Russian Cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov have completed their first month on the orbit.

The crew's working programme for the period from February 5-7 included some astrophysical and medical experiments. The cosmonauts also had to unload the "Progress M-21" cargo vehicle. Several observations of the stellar sky were carried out in accordance with the international "Roentgen" programme to study extra-atmospheric astronomy.

A regular cycle of experiments was carried out with the use of the "Maria" magnetic spectrometer. One of their tasks was to determine the possible interconnection between the intensity of the flow of elementary high-energy charged particles of cosmic origin and the seismic activity on our planet.

A radio session is expected to take place today afternoon between the crews of the Russian "Mir" space station and the American "Discovery" vehicle.

Federal Assembly

Fedorov Elected Chairman of Key Duma Committee

LD0802121294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Boris Fedorov, former minister of finance, was today unanimously elected chairman of the parliamentary subcommittee on the Russian Central Bank's credit and monetary policy.

Disagreements Result in Duma Agenda Changes

PM0702162194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "Trying To Play 'Amnesty Card' for Political Purposes"]

[Text] The draft agenda for the 4 February plenary session of the State Duma, which was submitted to deputies for approval, was mainly devoted to rather routine questions concerning the internal life of the lower house's legislators. But it has been learned that the original plans envisaged debates on such important questions as the State Duma's draft declaration on succession and draft laws on amendments to the Criminal Code and on an amnesty.

Commenting at the editorial office's request on this marked difference between the original plans and the final version of the agenda, M. Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, reported, in particular, that the draft declaration on succession prepared by V. Isakov, chief of the Duma's Legislation Committee, was not recommended for consideration as a result of two Duma Council sessions because, in the opinion of most council members, it was quite clearly aimed at a confrontation between the Duma and the president and had all the prerequisites for dragging legislators into a lengthy process of discussing the president's edicts issued from 21 September through 24 December last year. Mityukov believes that Isakov's main aim was, in camouflaged terms and in a competently compiled legal document, to throw doubt on the president's norm-creating activity.

Neither could the factions reach agreement on the draft law on amendments to the Criminal Code. This sounds paradoxical, because in their election programs practically all parties, associations, and deputies promised to fight crime ruthlessly. But the proposals made by the "Russia's Choice" faction—which envisage, in particular, the standardization of responsibility for crimes against property (the concept of "socialist ownership" is excluded here), increased punishments for terrorism and organized crime, and the extension of citizen's rights to necessary self-defense—did not meet with support from the bloc of communists, agrarians, and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. It is worth noting that this draft law was adopted by the former Russian Supreme Soviet in its first reading without any problems.

Neither was it possible to submit the draft law on an amnesty for discussion. The formal reason for this was the lack of an official letter from the president on submitting the draft law to the State Duma. But the main reason for postponing consideration was once again the position of certain factions which, according to Mityukov, "tried to play the amnesty card for their political purposes and which want, on top of 20,000 convicted invalids, pensioners, women, and war veterans, to pluck the participants in the October events out of Lefortovo."

Consequently the agenda turned out to be a rather tame one which did not promise any furors. Possibly wanting to capitalize on the polemical potential that accumulated during the week, most State Duma members decided to supplement the agenda with the favorite question of all Soviet deputies—"On Mass Media Coverage of the State Duma's Activity."

Gaydar Comments on Current Debates in State Duma

LD0702141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1406 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Yegor Gaydar, former Russian first vice-premier and currently leader of the "Russia's Choice" parliamentary faction, said that on Wednesday [9 February], the State Duma will, apparently,

discuss problems connected with scheduled elections to local bodies of power and a draft of permanent rules of procedure, adding that at present, the Duma works according to temporary rules of procedure.

Gaydar pointed out that continuous debates in parliament were caused by a draft resolution "On Amnesty in Connection With the Adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation." The draft resolution on amnesty was submitted to parliament for approval by President Boris Yeltsin. The Duma decided to return the draft resolution to parliamentary commissions and committees for thorough consideration since it caused a different reaction at a session of the Duma council. Explaining the position of the Russia's Choice bloc on this matter, Gaydar said that "we asked the president not to submit the resolution to the Duma, on the grounds of the existing criminal situation in the country and inadequate interpretation of the problem."

The Duma council also discussed the appointment of the Duma chief of staff. According to Gaydar, chairman of the lower house of the Russian parliament, Ivan Rybkin, was suggested to select one of three candidates planned to be given the post and express his opinion at a session of the Duma council. Gaydar did not say exactly, but merely mentioned that the Russia's Choice bloc supports the candidacy of Vladimir Podoprigora. However, Podoprigora cannot be relieved of his duties yet as chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for International Affairs, which is regarded by many deputies as a serious obstacle preventing his appointment to the post.

According to Gaydar, the Duma council did not discuss recent developments in former Yugoslavia. However, he added that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy is expected to make a statement on this problem at a plenary session of the Duma on Wednesday.

Travkin Urges Sending Duma Delegation to Yugoslavia

LD0702151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Nikolay Travkin, the leader of the Democratic Party faction in the State Duma, is calling for sending an official parliamentary delegation to the former Yugoslavia.

At Monday's [7 February] session held by the Duma's Council (which includes the speaker, his deputies and the leaders of all factions), he said that the Duma must evaluate the situation in the former Yugoslav republics based on conclusions made by its official delegation, not on the impressions of "a tourist," even if that tourist is the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party faction, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

On Wednesday Zhirinovskiy intends to brief the Duma on his recent trip to Yugoslavia.

In the meantime the leader of the Russian Unity and Accord faction in the Duma, Sergey Shakhray, told journalists on Monday that the proposed bombing of Serb positions surrounding the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sarajevo, will lead to nothing.

The issue of bombing Serb positions by NATO aircraft was raised following Saturday's explosion in Sarajevo's market place in which 68 people were killed. Bosnian Muslims laid the blame for the barbarous terrorist act on the Serbs.

"Bombardments cannot resolve such problems—they can only delay solution to the conflict," Shakhray pointed out. If the situation is further aggravated and Serb positions around Sarajevo are bombed, his faction will make an official statement in the Duma, he said.

Duma Legislation Committee Chief Interviewed

PM0702150594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Vladimir Isakov, chairman of Russian Federation State Duma Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform, by Yuriy Zvyagin; place and date not given: "Vladimir Isakov: Respect for the Law Will Triumph"]

[Text] Vladimir Isakov has a reputation as an experienced parliamentarian. This is evidently why the State Duma deputies elected him to one of the key posts in their chamber—that of chairman of the Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform.

[Isakov] Our small committee has been set extraordinarily great tasks. It has to prepare and make a preliminary examination of drafts of federal constitutional laws, federal laws in the spheres of human rights, the judicial system, civil, civil-procedural, criminal, criminal-procedural, and corrective labor law, and legislation on administrative offenses, and amnesty decrees.

We are obliged to make a preliminary examination of proposals for a revision of the Russian Federation Constitution and for amendments to it and to organize parliamentary hearings on questions of implementing the Constitution and federal constitutional laws. We are required to prepare rulings on draft laws and also to monitor the execution of legislation.

[Zvyagin] Are the committee's members sufficiently ready for responsible work, and does the difference in their political views and the fact that sometimes they are even opposed not embarrass you?

[Isakov] Indeed, we all have very different political partialities. But then there is also something which unites literally all of us. We are jurists. Many have academic degrees and have had plenty of practice. I myself am a doctor of juridical sciences and a professor, and I was chairman of the former Supreme Soviet's Committee for Constitutional Legislation. I have devoted considerable effort to lawmaking.

The same can be said of Boris Zolotukhin, my deputy. He used to tackle problems of judicial and legal reform on the former analogous committee. Zolotukhin represents "Russia's Choice." Another deputy of mine is Dr. of Juridical Sciences Viktor Vishnyakov (Liberal Democratic Party of

Russia), leading associate at the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Jurisprudence. A third is Sergey Zenkin (Party of Russian Unity and Accord), a lecturer at Ivanovo State University.

I believe that we will also be able to make successful use of the rich experience of Anatoliy Lukyanov and Professors Vladimir Tumanov and Viktor Sheynis. Incidentally, before being elected to the State Duma, the latter was, along with Boris Zolotukhin, a member of the Legislative Proposals Commission under the Russian Federation president. They have all done considerable work over almost the whole range of problems. As regards the diversity of political views, this diversity must be overcome by respect for the law.

[Zvyagin] Has the committee already gotten involved in lawmaking activity?

[Isakov] Of course. We have already prepared a Russian Federation draft law on the procedure for publishing and bringing into force federal constitutional laws, federal laws, and acts of the chambers of the Federal Assembly. This is one of the fundamental, top-priority documents.

Our committee has also prepared another important document. It is the declaration on the legal succession of the Federal Assembly with regard to the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. In particular, we hope for the return to parliament of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Jurisprudence.

[Zvyagin] What is your contribution to the entire State Duma's plan of law-drafting work?

[Isakov] Since the members of our committee have more experience of lawmaking work than others, people heed our voice. We are now seeking to draw the paramount attention of all committees to the creation of federal constitutional and federal laws which stem from the Russian Federation Constitution and which ensure its operation. Among the drafts of normative acts, to draw attention to those aimed at more fully defending citizens' rights and freedoms, developing the social sphere, and strengthening state-legal foundations. Members of our committee will also take a very direct part in drawing up the majority of future legal normative documents. Above all, this means these laws: on the state flag; the state anthem; the referendum; on the Russian Federation Constitutional Assembly; on the government; on the judicial system; on the commissioner for human rights.

More than other members of parliamentary formations, we will have to tackle the preparation of draft codes of legislation: civil, criminal, criminal-procedural, criminal-executive, air, land, tax, housing, and labor legislation, legislation on marriage and the family, on administrative offenses, and others.

[Zvyagin] What other draft laws which need to be examined and adopted without delay could you name?

[Isakov] On the procedure for ensuring the opportunity for citizens to familiarize themselves with documents and materials which directly affect their rights and freedoms; on public associations; on the procedure for holding rallies, demonstrations, processions, and pickets; on elections to the State Duma, on the procedure for forming the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly, on the main provisions for elections to organs of local self-management; on federal state service; on the application of citizens to state organs and organs of local self-management. I also deem it obligatory for us to participate in the work on them, for the Committee for Legislation and Judicial and Legal Reform is responsible for the quality of our entire new parliament's lawmaking.

Regional Affairs

Rebel Leader Demands Chechen Leader's Resignation

LD0702130694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Commander of the anti-Dudayev armed formations General Ibragim Suleymenov stated that reconciliation with the Chechen regime was only possible on the following terms: immediate and unconditional resignation of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the return of the capital from foreign banks (about $1 Bn) and proportional distribution of this capital among the population, and putting Dudayev on Shariat and secular trial.

On Monday, Suleymenov made a corresponding statement which was circulated in Moscow on Monday by the armed opposition's spokesman Zanbek Aliyev. He said that the Suleymenov-controlled units had started military maneuvers in Chechnya last Friday to improve interaction between units and rehearse bomb attacks on land targets.

Suleymenov was a deputy in the Chechen parliament disbanded by Dudayev in June 1993.

Dudayev Ignores Resignation Demand

LD0702191294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev has so far refrained from responding to an opposition leader's statement demanding his resignation.

Ibragim Sulaymenov, one of the opposition leaders, demanded on Monday that Dudayev step down as the republic's president, "make public his accounts in western banks for one billion U.S. dollars and choose which court—secular or sheriat—he wants to be tried by."

Apparently, Chechen leaders do not consider Sulaymenov's ultimatum carried by some mass media worth their attention. According to reports from Grozny, the capital of the Chechen Republic, the situation in the republic is "surprisingly calm" and is under the president's control.

Chechen Spokesman Denies Tension Escalating

LD0802093494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0821 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The statements by one of the leaders of the armed Chechen opposition, Ibragim Suleymenov, that the situation in the republic has sharply deteriorated and that the opposition units held a military exercise there are not true, according to the Chechen Press and Information Ministry. An INTERFAX correspondent reports from the republican capital of Groznyy that opposition units remain in the barracks and are holding no exercises at the moment.

The Chechen presidential office told INTERFAX that it was a "gross provocation by certain forces in the Russian leadership trying to disrupt the dialogue between Russia and Chechnya which has just begun." All this is happening on the eve of the Chechen government delegation's departure for Moscow for the bilateral interstate talks, the same sources said.

Meanwhile, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev had his usual busy day on Monday. This morning he visited an officers' college in Groznyy.

Ingush President Not To Seek Reelection

LD0702152694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nazran February 7 TASS—Ruslan Aushev, president of Ingushetia, a tiny Caucasian republic of Russia, said at a press conference on Monday [7 February] that he would not run for local president at the upcoming elections scheduled for February 27.

Monday is the last day for registration of candidates for the post of the president and vice-president of Ingushetia.

Aushev was elected a member of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, the Federation Council, last December 12.

His republic is in an ethnic and territorial conflict with neighbouring North Ossetia.

North Ossetian Official on Need for Political Solution

PM0802100594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Lozov, head of the North Ossetian Interim Administration, by Major Vladimir Gilyuk in Vladikavkaz; date not given: "Conflict Zone: Are Leaders Wise Enough?"]

[Text] As you know, the state of emergency regime has been extended in a number of rayons of Ingushetia and North Ossetia by Russian presidential edict. This enforced measure was approved at a closed session of the Federation Council. The upper chamber of the Russian parliament will continue seeking ways to settle the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. The sides themselves have viewed the extension of the regime with understanding, but without approval. Today we are publishing an interview with Vladimir Lozov, head of the Interim Administration, in which he hints that the skepticism of the parties to the conflict is nonetheless unfounded.

[Gilyuk] Vladimir Demyanovich, what is your view of the current situation in the state of emergency area?

[Lozov] It is still extremely complex. This is because—in the view of the Ossetian and the Ingush sides, with which I can agree there has still been no political assessment of the armed conflict. The facts are borne out by the results of sociological studies conducted by the Interim Administration. Some 80 percent of Ossetians and 20 percent of the Ingush advocate publishing such an assessment. What is more, the factors that gave rise to the conflict have not been eliminated.

[Gilyuk] Can you tell us what they are?

[Lozov] In first place I would cite the Ingush Republic leadership's continuing claims to part of the territory of North Ossetia's Prigorodnyy Rayon. As for the Ossetian side, it has still not adopted a decision distancing itself from the idea that it is impossible to cohabit with the Ingush.

What is more, a huge arsenal of weapons has been stockpiled in this region. And, as you know, these weapons are being used. Nor is there a unified regional policy on fighting crime. There is no well-organized cooperation between these republics' law-enforcement structures.

The socioeconomic and demographic situation in the region is tricky. Tens of thousands of innocent citizens have lost their homes....

[Gilyuk] What steps must be taken to implement the Russian president's edict of 13 December last year and the accords reached in the city of Nalchik?

[Lozov] In our view it is first necessary to formulate coordinated measures to implement the provisions of the edict and the protocol adopted at the meeting of North Caucasus republic leaders in Nalchik. They have not yet been elaborated. Even then they have, they will need to be implemented.

[Gilyuk] What has the Interim Administration done to this end?

[Lozov] We have succeeded in stabilizing the situation: The number of provocations and terrorist manifestations has dropped. We have incorporated our own view of how to settle the conflict in a number of proposals now being considered by Ingushetia and North Ossetia. Provision is being made to organize and hold talks with a view to working out coordinated practical steps to improve the situation in the region, confiscate unauthorized weapons—the use of which is poorly monitored by local law-enforcement organs—and detect and suppress the activity of extremist and nationalist individuals and groups which are trying to hobble the emergent process of rapprochement and the longed-for reconciliation of the two republics' peoples. It is planned to carry out a series of measures aimed at resolving the social and economic questions

involved in bringing back, resettling, and looking after refugees and enforced migrants on the two republics' territory.

[Gilyuk] Apart from the above plans, has the Interim Administration made any progress or achieved any concrete results in its activity?

[Lozov] Yes. But first I must talk about the material and financial "injections" from the Russian Federation Government. In the last year direct spending alone to stabilize the situation in the state of emergency area has cost the Russian budget over 30 billion rubles, and remarkably, Russian subsidies make up the overwhelming proportion of both sides' budgets.

We conducted an inventory of all the facilities in four population centers. A total of 2,389 homes and 63 social facilities were surveyed. To show you the scale of the tragedy and the amount of work that lies ahead let me tell you that only 915 of the 2,389 homes remained intact and 33 of the 63 social and consumer facilities had been destroyed or damaged.

[Gilyuk] Vladimir Demyanovich, what must be done primarily to begin the process of bringing back refugees and enforced migrants?

[Lozov] I am convinced that the process of bringing back enforced migrants must go hand in hand with moves to reconcile the inhabitants. A meeting of the two republics' presidents with a view to coordinating and formulating practical steps pertaining to the whole question of solving refugees' problems and other issues in the Kislovodsk agreements would be an extremely important political step ensuring that favorable conditions are created for the edict to be fulfilled. I want to stress that without political will and wisdom from the two leaders, backed up by the republics' organs of government and socionational movements, it will be impossible to reconcile the peoples and on that basis to bring people back and look after them.

Official Says No Hurry for Treaty With Tatarstan

LD0702182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Russian presidential council member Emil Pain, who heads the Ethnic Policy Research Center of the Russian Foreign Policy Association, is convinced that the Russian leadership should not place special emphasis on coming to terms with Tatarstan in the process of making Russia a federal state.

He told Interfax Monday [7 February] that he did not see much sense in hurrying up the signing of a treaty between the Russian Federation and Tatarstan on mutual delegation of powers at the expense of "unprincipled concessions" by Moscow. "The treaty is being worded, there is a schedule of drafting documents and there has been no departure from the constitutional process," Payin believes.

In his view, similar treaties on power sharing between the center and the Federation's constituent parts must be signed with all Russia's areas. "It would be highly undesirable to make some constituent part an exceptional case," Payin emphasized.

Staying away from the elections does more harm to Tatarstan than to Russia, Payin said. In his words, by ignoring the December parliamentary elections that republic lost the chance of being represented in the Federation's top legislature and of influencing federal policies, particularly as far as the shaping the structure of the Federation is concerned.

Far East Leaders Appeal for State Support

LD0702233994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1524 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Khabarovsk, 7 Feb—The heads of Far Eastern krays and oblasts who participated in a conference on the region's energy supply problems in Khabarovsk have adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The slump in production in the Far East has reached a critical point, it stresses, and a further reduction in the production and supply of energy cannot be permitted. The cost of a kilowatt-hour of electricity in some parts of the Far East has reached 200 rubles, whereas in central parts of Russia it is 16 rubles. The decisions of government bodies for the development of the Far East's fuel and energy base are not being fulfilled.

In order to avoid the complete shutdown of industrial and other enterprises, the heads of administration of krays and oblasts in the Far East are asking the Russian president to urgently examine the question of state support for the region's economy. In particular, the Far East workers are hoping to obtain loans and credits amounting to 140 billion rubles to settle their debt for petroleum products sent to the region. The territories are also asking for the federal budget debt to enterprises in the state sector amounting to 450 billion rubles to be written off. A number of other questions regarding the supply of vital needs to the region are also raised in the appeal.

International Affairs

Crimean Leader Meets Black Sea Fleet Commander

LD0702175594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Feb—Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Crimean republic, and Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, discussed the fleet's problems at a meeting in Sevastopol today.

In the words of Yuriy Meshkov, the Black Sea Fleet was and remains the guarantor of stability on the Crimean peninsula. He also believes that while resolving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, one should take into account the opinion of the population and of the highest power bodies of the republic in the interests of the peoples of Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia.

ITAR-TASS has learned at the press center of the Black Sea Fleet that Eduard Baltin expressed confidence that Yuriy Meshkov "as the president of all Crimean residents, will defend their rights irrespective of their nationality and political views, and will seek to strenghen peace and interethnic accord in Crimea."

Yuriy Meshkov and Eduard Baltin agreed to exchange information on the most important aspects of Crimea's political life and to hold regular business meetings.

Fleet Ter[illegible]ed 'Guarantor of Stability'

LD0702190994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said the Black Sea Fleet was and is the guarantor of stability on the peninsula, the press service of the fleet told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Meeting today in Sevastopol Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin, the first popularly elected president of the Ukraine's semi-autonomous republic said that the problems of the fleet should be resolved considering opinions of the Crimean public, its supreme bodies and in the interests of the peoples of the Crimea, Ukraine and Russia.

Commander of the disputed fleet Baltin expressed confidence that "as the president of all the Crimeans, Meshkov would protect their rights irrespective of nationality and political views, that his activities would be aimed at strengthening peace and international concord in the Crimea."

Meshkov and Baltin agreed to meet regularly to exchange information on the most pressing issues of the Crimean political life.

Ambassador Says Ukraine To Join NPT 'Shortly'

LD0702153894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1503 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Ukraine will be a non-nuclear state and will "shortly" join the Nonproliferation Treaty of 1968, the Ukrainian ambassador to Russia said.

Vladimir Kryzhanovskiy told a news conference in Moscow on Monday that the Ukrainian parliament had now approved all the points of Article Five of the Lisbon Protocol. "This eliminates the main problem, and now everything is ready for joining the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the immediate future," he said. All nuclear arms will be removed from Ukraine, he said.

Kryzhanovsky said the Ukrainian legislature had charged the government with the exchanging of the START-I ratification instruments and instructed it to take more efforts to enter into relevant international agreements.

The ambassador did not rule out that Ukraine's membership in the Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear state would be approved by the present parliament, but said this was most likely to be done by the next legislature, to be elected on March 27.

Commenting on Ukraine's relations with Russia, Kryzhanovskiy said there was some friction but that it had set off no conflicts between the two nations. As for the idea of the incorporation of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea into Russia through a Crimean referendum, he said it would be the same as the incorporation of Russia's Kuril Islands into Japan on the basis of the results of a referendum by the Kuril population. "That's not serious," he said.

He said none of the former Soviet republics, including Russia, "has given a kopeck" to return Crimean Tatars to Crimea.

Kravchuk Secures Victory at Disarmament Debate

PM0702170394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 2

[Olga Musafirova report: "May We Join?.. The Ukrainian Parliament Will No Longer Stymie the Nuclear Disarmament of the State"]

[Text] Kiev—It was simply a crushing victory for Leonid Kravchuk. Once again he mixed his supporters and opponents together in the Supreme Council to produce new political loaves in the way that a good housewife kneads dough. Leonid Makarovich listened carefully first to the microphone on the left which promised him the Nobel Peace Prize and then to the microphone on the right which threatened him with Article 56 of the Criminal Code for treason on an especially large scale. And all this for a three-page statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia delivered in Moscow on 14 January.

Meanwhile the stove had been lit and the loaves knew that they would have to leap into it. Ukraine's nuclear weapons are—thanks to the economic policy of the last two years—the only commodity which the West has dreamed of buying here, buying in order to destroy them.

However, the Supreme Council was required not to sign but, on the contrary, to erase something, to strike out its so-called "warnings" over an article in Protocol Five of the START Treaty as enshrined by decree in November 1993 so that the document was not at odds with the three-page statement of the presidents which had already been agreed upon.

The situation was lent special piquancy by the fact that the "Moscow pact"—neither the statement itself nor the appendices to it containing specific figures and deadlines for Ukraine's nuclear disarmament—did not need ratification at all. And the debates in parliament guaranteed their participants profound moral satisfaction only.

Leonid Makarovich bore the blows of fate in worthy fashion. He forgave his attackers: "I understand it is a difficult decision for you to make..." He encouraged those who thought like him: "I received a letter from Clinton at lunchtime. He writes that he is doubling economic aid to Ukraine." True, the real issues remained off stage: The questions of interest to the technicians and professionals like Kuchma of how modern solid-fuel SS-24 missiles are going to be scrapped if the technology for recycling them does not yet exist in the world; who will solve the problem of utilizing weapons-grade plutonium; what to do with the abandoned missile silos, and so forth. A purely political rather than a comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament can only result in either blatant deception of the whole world or upheaval within the Ukrainian state system. But the president was as good as his word: He exerted his influence and led people toward a compromise.

With just a couple of minutes to go before the end of the working day parliament was persuaded that it was being taken into account, established a quorum, and pushed the "yes" button. Unconditional ratification of START I was carried. The new decree was prepared by the president himself as a legislative initiative. True, during voting the third paragraph—on accession to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968—got unexpectedly dropped: Someone remembered that deputies had not actually seen the document themselves, which was inconvenient.... Therefore Ukraine has not subscribed to it, although it now wished to!

Official on Effect of Accord on Fuel Situation

LD0502180694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—Vasyl Katko, deputy chairman of the Ukraine State Committee for the use of Nuclear Power, commenting on 4 February on the decision by the Supreme Council regarding the further fate of Ukrainian nuclear missiles at the request of a UNIAN correspondent, observed that "the Russian fuel produced from Ukrainian missiles with nuclear warheads could be inaccessible for Ukrainian nuclear power stations." He noted that according to the agreement with Russia, only the uranium due to Ukraine will be free of charge for it [Ukraine], which comes to approximately 25-30 percent of the fuel content of nuclear power stations. "But if one is to take into account the fact that Russia in fact increases the price of fuel by 40-50 percent every quarter, then one cannot talk about free Russian fuel for Ukraine," the deputy chairman of the State Committee for the use of Nuclear Power is convinced. "Even if Russia sells the fuel produced from our uranium at a cheaper price, Ukrainian atomic power stations will hardly be able to acquire it in sufficient quantities, because nuclear power stations are currently in dire financial straits."

Organization Lauds Kravchuk for Signing Accord

AU0402172494 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 3 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "The President—Candidate"]

[Text] The international organization "Chernobyl Association" has expressed its support for the position occupied by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in connection with the signing of the Tripartite Statement by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia regarding the settlement of the problems of nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The president of the organization, People's Deputy V. Shovkoshytnyy, wrote the following in his letter to the Ukrainian president: "The choice that you have made is correct, and we express the hope that future generations will appreciate it." The letter also states that the "Chernobyl Association" supports the initiative of Ukraine's Green Party to nominate Leonid Kravchuk as a candidate for the Nobel Peace prize.

Regional Organizations Hail Tripartite Declaration

WS0402144894 Dnepropetrovsk DNEPROVSKAYA PANORAMA in Russian 20 Jan 94 p 1

[Report by V. Katsman: "Missiles—Merely the First Step"]

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk regional organizations of the Party of Democratic Rebirth of Ukraine and the New Ukraine association have adopted a joint declaration in support of the tripartite Ukrainian-U.S.-Russian agreements on nuclear weapons. The declaration points out that courageous and resolute steps should be taken to save Ukraine's economy, including those in foreign economic and diplomatic spheres. Leonid Kravchuk's actions, although a little too late, give some hope for the improvement of economic indicators as a result of a decrease in expenditures on maintenance of nuclear arms. On the other hand, an urgent need for Ukraine's domestic economic reform has become even more evident. The road to the world community has opened before Ukraine, but to set out upon it, Ukraine must prove to its own people its loyalty to progress, market principles, well-being, and prosperity.

Sergey Mikhaylenko, leader of the regional organizations of the two parties, who has been nominated candidate in Dnepropetrovsk electoral district No. 76, underlined that fidelity to economic reform will be the distinctive feature of the centrist forces' electoral platform. In particular, four principles represent the epitome of S. Mikhaylenko's electoral program: Priority of human rights, the curbing of inflation, reform in the system of ownership, and increased independence of regions.

Plyushch Stresses Commitment to Territorial Integrity

LD0702225294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] "Ukraine's territorial integrity is fixed in all documents and we shall never give it up," Ivan Plyushch, speaker of the republic's parliament, said in a radio interview.

He said that today there are no countries which have territorial claims to Ukraine, as was made by the Russian parliament.

The speaker believes that the territorial claims could be associated with the election of Yuriy Meshkov as the Crimean president. However, he said, now Russian-Ukrainian relations have no grounds for fears.

Plyushch has described as artificial the problem of Ukrainian debts to Russia. He believes the problem is blown up by pro-imperial forces in Russia who rely on a strong propaganda machine. Plyushch believes that Russia could place some of its debts as legal successor of the Soviet Union on Ukraine. In addition, not only the Black Sea Fleet, but the entire former Soviet navy should be divided, he said.

Plyushch said that following the trilateral statement on Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, the United States promised to set aside for the republic some $500 million for dismantling nuclear weapons.

Government Replaces Peacekeepers in Sarajevo

LD0702214994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1911 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev February 7 TASS—Despite the critical situation in Yugoslavia brought to a head by the bomb explosion in downtown Sarajevo on Saturday that killed at least 68 people and wounded over 200, Ukraine has decided to go ahead with the planned replacement of its peacekeeping troops in that country, the press service of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry said.

Ukraine dispatched the second planeload of peace-keepers to the Sarajevo sector on Monday, the press service said.

National Affairs

Plyushch Views Causes of Economic Crisis

LD0602001694

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1400 GMT on 5 February begins broadcasting a live phone-in program with Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

The program begins with Plyushch answering several questions of a personal nature. He says that he is a self-critical person, that his Ukrainian, although often criticized as being far from literary, is the language spoken by ordinary people and there is nothing wrong with a statesman speaking this language, and that playing card games is his hobby.

Replying to a question from a program moderator on the cause of the deep economic crisis that hit Ukraine despite the fact that it was considered to have the greatest potential of all the former USSR countries, Ivan Plyushch says that this is nothing but a misconception. Ukraine did have better economic potential but not starting opportunities, which are a different matter, he says. The coal and ore mining enterprises in the Donetsk coal basin and Krivoy Rog basin were supposed to be cost-effective within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty organization but now they are a burden for Ukraine. The Chernobyl disaster and the huge army with the military and industrial complex should be added to this, he states. These three factors consume one third of Ukraine's budget. "Do we need such an army?" he asks. "We started from almost 1 million. Now we have already reduced it down to half a million, on paper. But today we pay more to the pensioners, who had once been wearing shoulder straps, than to maintain regular servicemen," he says.

Answering a question from a listener from New York Plyushch points out that no help from the outside can lead a country as big as Ukraine out of the crisis. The only way out is to ensure conditions enabling the people of Ukraine to work efficiently and fruitfully, he states. He admits that the parliament does more toward solving political issues rather than economic. Plyushch blames the government for introducing too many amendments to the legislation worked out by the parliament, which only steps up chaos. He says that the current parliament is still to adopt the law on the election of local councils, in compliance with the law on the formation of the local power bodies and regional self-government, and the law on the election of the president. Both elections are scheduled to take place simultaneously in June 1994. "Besides, consultations are under way with the government and the president on introducing amendments and additions to the current legislation in February, which would not hamper, not stand in the way of the economic reforms, but, on the contrary, which would open up the way for economic reforms," he states.

Answering a question from a listener from the Netherlands, Plyushch says: "There are no countries encroaching upon Ukraine's territorial integrity, except for the already

nonexistent parliament of the Russian Federation, which made a notorious decision on Sevastopol that was condemned by the world public and by such a structure as the UN Security Council. To a certain extent one can link the election of Meshkov, president of the Crimea, with the encroachments of the Russian pro-imperial forces. However, in our policy and practical actions we must proceed from interstate bilateral relations. At present, we have such relations, which give us no grounds to assert this. In addition, you know that in the latest trilateral statement by Kravchuk, Yeltsin, and Clinton the sides declare that they will not make territorial claims. Moreover, they will not interfere in the internal affairs and, on the contrary, will do everything to ensure territorial integrity, noninterference, and collective security."

In his reply to a listener from Bavaria, Germany, who expresses his dissatisfaction with the dominance of the Russian language in Ukraine and the encroachment on Ukraine's sovereignty, Plyushch says that the law on languages was adopted in Ukraine. However the consolidation of Ukrainian as the state language needs time and money, he says. Plyushch also remarks that 149 countries have recognized Ukraine and diplomatic relations have been established with 133 countries. Ukrainian diplomatic representations are functioning in more than 40 countries. This means that Ukraine has consolidated its status as a member of the European and world communities, he states.

In his reply to a listener from Australia who wants to know what prompted Plyushch to write his book *Who Are We And Where Are We Going?*, he says that this is a collection of his speeches made over the past four years, published with the sponsorship of the Soros Foundation. Ivan Plyushch says the contents of all his speeches prove the invariability of his stand and adherence to the ideas of democracy, glasnost, market economy, Ukraine's sovereignty, and independence.

The program moderator asks Plyushch about his attitude toward such economists as Lanovyy, Pynzenyk, Pylypchuk, and Chernyak, who are well known in Ukraine as proponents of market economy and whose economic programs, however, were turned down. The parliament speaker says he always respected the above economists and respects them now, but they would never be a success unless there was a unity of actions and a consensus between the proponents of the market economy and those who stand on the principles of administration-by-mere injunction.

In his reply to a listener from the United States concerning the necessity of a spiritual revolution, Plyushch says that the government's support for science and education is insufficient. The trilateral statement, signed by Kravchuk, Yeltsin, and Clinton, envisages $500,000 in aid to Ukraine. This will help Ukraine solve at least some of its problems. He says: "This is why the parliament did it right when it ratified START I and allowed the government to exchange the instruments of ratification and conclude direct agreements in fulfilment of all the reservations put forth by the Supreme Council."

Concerning the issue of dual citizenship, touched upon by a listener from Great Britain, Plyushch says that issues of dual citizenship are considered in every individual case on a bilateral basis.

The program moderator asks Plyushch about his attitude toward the economic union within the CIS. He also adds that Plyushch was once against such a union and since then Ukraine has become its associate member. Plyushch says: "I am not against the economic union, and you, please, never say this again anywhere." "I was saying an absolutely different thing. I was saying that our country is a CIS member. We have already concluded more than 400 various treaties and agreements and none of these works. So, what kind of a union do you need?" He adds: "Who stands in the way of their fulfillment? Who is talking about some new economic union, some new agreements? Let him not deceive anyone. What I have in mind is this: It is necessary either to set up such a structure that would force the fulfillment of those agreements or they must be fulfilled on a bilateral, mutually advantageous basis."

Concerning the results of the work done by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Plyushch says it is too early to speak about any results, although the good intentions of the Black Sea basin countries to solve their problems jointly is a positive result in itself. Answering a question from the moderator whether Turkey allowed the passage of oil tankers to Ukraine through the Bosporus, Plyushch says: "Turkey has never refused to do this. That was just an intrigue by our wire-pullers."

In his reply to a listener from the United States concerning the division of the former USSR assets, Plyushch indicates that Ukraine had not received anything so far. On its part Ukraine also failed to pay off its share of the former USSR debt. He says: "There is an agreement at the level of governments that the tactical nuclear weapons, which were withdrawn from Ukraine, the cost of the uranium in those weapons, will be counted to settle Ukraine's share of the former USSR debt."

Concerning Ukraine's security, Plyushch says that Ukraine is a member of all the international institutions and structures dealing with collective security. He expresses certainty that the trilateral statement, signed by Kravchuk, Yeltsin, and Clinton in Moscow, should contribute to consolidating Ukraine's security.

Answering a question from a listener in Kiev concerning the internal debt of Ukraine's government due to the USSR disintegration, Plyushch confirms that the government of Ukraine must compensate for the bonds and other securities of the former USSR possessed by Ukrainian citizens.

Concerning the upcoming parliamentary election in Ukraine, the parliament speaker expresses his strong conviction that the election will take place without fail. At present 1,612 candidates for deputies are registered in Ukraine of whom 927 were nominated by electors, 500 by working collectives, and only 183 by political parties. Plyushch says that this is the result of the fact that the

parties pursue, first and foremost, their own selfish, narrow-party, group interests. This is why their members continue to say that the election will fail to take place.

Answering a listener's question concerning the reliability of the trilateral statement signed in Moscow, Plyushch says: "I believe that the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, made a decisive, bold, and the only correct move when he signed the trilateral agreement and its appendix. Today this is not only my own opinion but the opinion of the 260 deputies who endorsed this move with their votes. President Kravchuk was acting in line with the reservations that had been made by the Supreme Council on 18 November last year during the ratification."

Plyushch welcomes the ever-growing activity and participation of the new business representatives in the election campaign but remarks that this refers to honest businessmen, not those who make their money by plundering the national wealth.

Concerning the issue of privatization, touched upon by a listener from Belgium, Plyushch says privatization in Ukraine is backed up by a whole number of relevant laws. However, it is hampered by the absence of those wishing to privatize property and lack of finances.

Touching on the issue of building an oil terminal in Odessa, raised by the program moderator, Plyushch says that today Ukraine imports 90 percent of its oil. It would be unwise to have only one source for the oil supply. This is why it is necessary to have alternative sources. Even without the terminal, which is being built in Odessa, Ukraine is already now prepared to receive up to 5 million tons of oil. As for the extraction of oil in Ukraine, experts say it can be increased up to 10 million tons, but this will not be enough anyway, because Ukraine needs at least 40 million tons.

Answering a question from a listener from Great Britain concerning the fact that Kazakhstan is not in a hurry to eliminate its nuclear weapons while Ukraine is eliminating theirs, Plyushch says that in its declaration Ukraine pledged to be a nonnuclear and nonaligned state. The nuclear weapons, inherited by Ukraine from the former USSR, can be neither used, maintained, nor modernized by Ukraine. "Besides, in the future Ukraine is to become a nonnuclear state. It will accede to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. More than 130 countries have already acceded to it and 180 countries, as far as I know, intend to accede to it. We will be a peace-loving state," Plyushch says.

Dwelling on the issue of mutual settlements between Ukraine and Russia raised by a listener from Belgium, Plyushch admits that the balance of payments today is not in favor of Ukraine. "We are far from covering the cost of the power sources, received from Russia, by our products exported to Russia," he states.

Concerning the issue of borders between Ukraine and Russia, raised by the same listener, Plyushch says that it would take time to built genuine borders.

To conclude the question-and-answer session, Plyushch says that foreign observers are expected to take part in the coming parliamentary election in Ukraine. The program ends at 1530 GMT.

Parliament Adopts Program on Foreign Investment

LD0402223294 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1639 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] As is known, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted the law "On the State Program for Encouraging Foreign Investments in Ukraine." Many citizens wish to know more about this enactment and its basic provisions.

The press center of the Supreme Council of Ukraine reports that according to the law relations connected with foreign investment and the determination of its main trends are regulated by a state program that supplements the law and that is an inseparable part of it. The program outlines the priority spheres for the investment of foreign capital, the standards for the investors who claim additional privileges, the essence of these privileges, ways toward improving the legal regulation of international business, the development of its infrastructure, and the role of Ukraine's regions in encouraging foreign investments. The agro-industrial, fuel, energy, and timber industry complexes; machine-building, metallurgy, and production of materials; light, medical, chemical, oil, and chemical industries; and communications, transportation, and social infrastructures are considered to be a priority for foreign investments.

In the near future the above law of Ukraine will be published in the press.

Cabinet, Banks Seeking Resolution to Nonpayments

LD0802033794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2002 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—On 7 February a UNIAN correspondent learned from reliable sources that the cabinet of ministers and the National Bank of Ukraine will in the very near future approve a joint resolution to emerge from the nonpayments crisis between Ukraine's corporate bodies. Since 1 December 1993 their receiveables have grown from 46 to 78 trillion karbovantsi.

At a meeting of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [USPP] on 4 February, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov stated: Since the movement of payments has almost halted, "the state's financial and monetary system is paralyzed" and "industry is low." In his words, it was decided that there would be considerable financial "injections" in the economy. The government convinced Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch of the need for this move. It is now being coordinated what the plan for this will be; whether it will be done through index-linking of working capital or through emission. Vasyl Yevtukhov said he and Deputy Prime Ministers Valeriy Shmarov and Volodymyr Demyanov estimated that the total sum of money required was several tens of trillions of karbovantsi.

In order to set monetary circulation in motion, the USPP proposed "to determine the karbovantsi sum that would ensure the first round of payments in goods manufacturing and banking and to channel it to restoring the production cycle. To do this, mandatory mutual offsetting of enterprises' debts through settlement by promissory notes via relevant banks should be carried out; the enterprises with a negative balance after mutual offsetting by promissory notes should be identified; priorities in the structure of the national produce should be set; the range of enterprises that have the right to state credits should be determined; and credits to sectors of the national economy should be prohibited legislatively by the Ukrainian president's edict. Should monetary emission be necessary in order to grant state credits to specific enterprises, it should be carried out."

The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has decided that credits should be granted to separate sectors along the technological line: By granting credits to the metallurgy and the coking by-product industry, the government will enable them to settle their accounts with the coal miners and the coal miners in their turn will settle theirs with the power engineers etc. At the same time, it is providing funds subject to produce in real terms, rather than granting purely emissive credit, that is at issue. According to some data, the government will make ministries' and departments' primary officials personally responsible for returning the money. In Vasyl Yevtukhov's words, this scheme of credit provision requires 7-15 trillion karbovantsi, which is two times less than the sum that was discussed previously. Separate on the list is the agro- industrial complex, which requires 3-4 trillion karbovantsi.

In an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent, acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy confirmed that "the problem of offsetting mutual indebtedness should be tackled positively and immediately." He at the same time was categorical in denying claims that this would lead to considerable emission, since credits, in his words, will be granted "exclusively subject to the finished produce." Asked by a UNIAN correspondent to comment on expert estimates forecasting initial emission to the amount of five trillion karbovantsi, the Ukrainian acting prime minister said: "No businessman will ever see such an emission in Ukraine."

Ukrainian Industry Minister Anatoliy Holubchenko told a UNIAN correspondent: "Better emission, or to be more precise, emissive credit, than mutual offsetting. The offsetting of mutual indebtedness will take one and a half to two months, while we need radical and prompt measures to increase the viability of industry. At present there is a disaster in every sector."

Interviewed by a UNIAN correspondent, USPP Chairman Leonid Kuchma pointed out that the financial system could be unblocked by interbank promissory note offsetting, which would identify bankrupt enterprises. He spoke categorically against automatically offsetting mutual debts. According to the latest information, however, the government has rejected this USPP proposal, since the banks are inexperienced in working with promissory notes.

Asked by a UNIAN correspondent about how well-grounded talk of emission was, Ukrainian Economy Minister Roman Shpek at his news conference on 4 February answered: "We shall seek to settle the issues of the budget deficit in the first quarter—and I cannot be sure that there will not be any in the second one as well—on a non-emission basis. This was one of the subjects of the talks by the Ukrainian Government delegation in the United States. The submission of annual financial reports by enterprises is a convenient time for enterprises to be cleared up. Address or point assistance will only be given to those who are the foundation of our export potential."

Roman Shpek also said that delegations from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are coming to Ukraine next week.

Rukh Chairman Accuses Authorities of Pressure

AU0802104494 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Statement by Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of Ukraine's People's Rukh in Kiev on 30 January: "We Are Ready To Assume Responsibility"]

[Text] On the eve of the elections to the Supreme Council, Ukraine's People's Rukh was subjected to a brutal assault—on 15 January 1994, the chairman of the Secretariat and cochairman of Rukh's Central Electoral Committee, Mykhaylo Boychyshyn, was abducted. His fate is still unknown—this is the beginning of the appeal by Ukraine's People's Rukh to citizens.

The steady political pressure exerted upon Rukh, the information blockade imposed by the authorities, the pogroms in the buildings of local Rukh organizations, and the use of force against its activists during the election campaign have become systematic.

As is known, the activity of political parties and public organizations has no financial backing from the state. The law "On Associations of Citizens" prevents political organizations from engaging in political activity. Nor do they have the right to receive material support from their foreign supporters. Therefore, the parties may only act effectively if they get assistance from collective or individual sponsors in Ukraine, those who want to support a political force that will defend their interests.

The offensive against those who have rendered assistance, no matter how small, to Rukh, is an attempt to deprive our organization of support during the election campaign.

People's Rukh consistently pursues a policy of building a democracy in the independent Ukrainian state and of reforms that will guarantee the well-being of the people. It actively opposes the present corrupt authorities and promotes equality of all citizens before the law.

If we win the elections, we will form a government that will enjoy the confidence of the people. We are ready to take upon ourselves the responsibility for the fate of our state.

This is what our opponents in the party in power particularly fear. They have decided to leave Ukraine's People's Rukh without means of subsistence.

We appeal to you, dear friends, to support Ukraine's People's Rukh. We appeal to all those who strive for effective reforms in the economy, want positive changes in society, and associate these hopes with the People's Rukh. Your support is the pledge of our common victory.

We will gratefully accept your donations at the following address: 252032, Kiev, Taras Shevchenko Boulevard, 37/122 or to bank account No. 609893 in the Commercial Bank "INKO," MFO 300261.

[Signed] Chairman of Ukraine's People's Rukh Vyacheslav Chornovil

[Dated] Kiev, 30 January 1994

Parties Allocated Air Time During Election Campaign

LD0802113694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2002 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Managers of Ukraine's State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company held a conference with political party leaders on 7 February. The conference approved a mechanism for using television and radio in the election campaign. It was agreed that, during the period left until the election, parties can use 21 hours of air time on television and 10 hours on the radio.

The first stage, at which parties presented their election programs, is over. At the second stage, electors will be informed in detail about the goals of political parties and movements. It was agreed that these broadcasts will take the format of a debate, involving only those party representatives who are not registered as candidates for people's deputy of Ukraine.

A proposal on panel composition put forward by State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company president Mykola Okhmakevych's was strongly disputed. In the party leaders' opinion, they are capable of choosing their opponents themselves without waiting for journalists to do so. It was decided that topics for the debates will be suggested by sociological surveys.

Chairman of the Socialist Party of Ukraine Oleksandr Moroz suggested that conference participants refrain from commenting on the election results in Crimea for the sake of national concord.

Congress of Nationalists Presents Platform

WS0402160394 Lutsk NARODNA TRYBUNA in Ukrainian 29 Jan 94 p 4

[Report by V. Verbych: "Nationalist Ideas and Elections"]

[Excerpt] Delegates from most of the oblast's rayons arrived for a conference of the Volyn branch of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists [KUN]. Representatives of parties and civil unions which are members of the Prosperity, Justice, and Order bloc also participated in the conference.

Serhiy Hodlevskyy, a member of the oblast branch of KUN, presented to the participants an electoral platform of nationalists entitled "Ukrainian Choice—94." In particular, the document says that "the Ukrainian state faces a deadly threat today." It also appeals for consolidation of all social forces which support the national and state interests of Ukraine. The platform also demands that officials who are responsible for massive pilferage of national property and bribery be brought to account. The document proclaims a ceaseless war against nomenklatura and Mafia structures. KUN will also fight against those forces which advocate racist, chauvinist, imperial, and communist ideas. Admitting the necessity of privatization and the establishment of a middle class, KUN will resist unfair privatization [prykhvatyzatsiya—relates to Supreme Chairman Plyushch's mispronunciation of the word "pryvatyzatsiya"]. Ukraine's nuclear potential is considered an essential security guarantee. KUN's legislative candidates base their positions on such values as the individual, family, nation, and state.

Meletiy Semenyuk, head of the oblast branch of KUN and head of the Volyn branch of the Brotherhood of Ukrainian Insurrection Army Troops, analyzed the current sociopolitical situation. Speaking about prospects for state building, he emphasized that "nobody will build our state except we ourselves." Special attention was paid to the necessity of preserving unshaken spirits and allegiance to the ideas of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists [OUN] and the Ukrainian Insurrection Army [UPA].

Meletiy Semenyuk condemned the dissemination of leaflets signed in the name of "inheritors of national patriotism." In particular, one of the leaflets signed by mythical political leader "Lebed" and strategist-analyst "Uchytel," deputy centurion of the Volyn Security Century, says: "We call on professional racketeers, whose hands have not yet been soiled with blood, to join the Brotherhood of OUN-UPA Troops..." M. Semenyuk believes that activities of the so-called "inheritors of national patriotism" are aimed at bringing discredit upon the Brotherhood of UPA Troops and KUN. "We will not allow them to discredit our movement," he stated, appealing to law enforcement authorities for investigating those structures which are hidden behind the "inheritors of national patriotism." [passage omitted]

Belarus

Premier Kebich Interviewed on Russian Ties

PM0702140394 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 5 Feb 94 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich by Anatoliy Gulyayev; place and not given; under the rubric "In the Commonwealth": "My Main Political Aim Is the Restoration of Economic Union With Russia. The Leader of the Belarus Government Has Given Our Correspondent an Interview in Which He Talks About the Problems Connected With the Solution of This Question"]

[Text] Republic of Belarus—[Gulyayev] Vyacheslav Frantsevich, in one of your speeches you said: "The Government has a concept. The cornerstone of that concept is cooperation with Russia..." But the opposition regards putting the question that way as opposing the sovereignty of Belarus and the agreement on the creation of a single monetary system as yet another manifestation of a "pro-Russian, pro-empire" policy. On the other hand, to judge from the reaction of Yegor Gaydar and some other Russian politicians there are differing attitudes toward the agreement there, too. Hence the following questions. First, how does your government's policy tally with the sovereignty of the republic? Second, is the unification of the monetary systems a manifestation of normal business partnership? Or is it pure philanthropy on Russia's part?

[Kebich] As for the opposition, these people represent a very small part of the republic's population. According to the latest polls they represent around 4 percent. Their opinion is that held by politicians who will do anything to get power. For some of them any means will do, and that includes distortion of the facts.

How can there be any question of an infringement of sovereignty in the process of normal economic integration? If that is the case you would have to say that those European figures who are working for the introduction of a single means of payment for Europe are bad patriots, too! Both there and here it is a question of economic union among states, each of which has its own state organization, Constitution, culture, and traditions...

But as for philanthropy... Yes, different people cite different figures—trillions of dollars—which Russia is allegedly losing in the ruble zone.

Well, let us examine the situation. Let us start with the fact that powerful production units created in the republic are a constituent part of major technical cycles in Russia, too. That is why Russian producers and consumers (unlike some politicians) are keenly interested in economic union with Belarus.

But no one should forget that the oil fields in Siberia, the processing enterprises, and the gold and hard currency assets were created by the joint labor of the peoples of all the republics of the former Union. Including to a considerable extent the labor of the Belarusian people.

Not to mention the oil pipelines running across the republic's territory and transit routes to the West... If we start adding everything up, I do not think that it will run to trillions.

I mention all this not because I want to make any claims. I would just like public opinion in Russia and Belarus to be formed on the basis of a sober and all-around assessment of the situation.

After all, the rate of our currency (we did not dream of introducing it, incidentally, and did not dream of leaving the ruble zone) against the Russian ruble was initially one to one. It then fell for two reasons: The first is that prices for energy sources rose sharply for us, the second is the Russians' indebtedness for output already supplied. If Russian enterprises paid us back the money that they owed us for that output the ratio would have been different.

No, philanthropy simply has nothing to do with it. Equitable partnership alone—the most sober-minded and honest politicians in Russia understand that.

[Gulyayev] However, the resistance to the ruble zone in Russia looks very serious. Once again, this is Gaydar's demarche...

[Kebich] You know, I do not think that the signing of the agreement on the unification of the monetary systems was really a serious reason for Gaydar's resignation from the government. It goes far deeper. In my view, it may be expressed in general terms as a difference of views between the premier and the vice-premier on the path of the continuation of the reforms.

And the convenient pretext is... Belarus. Or it could be the construction of the Russian parliament building, for example. This is not a subject for discussion for serious politicians. But as a pretext, I repeat, it will do.

[Gulyayev] You are doubtless right. But you know that there are quite a few people in Belarus who say: Kebich's policy will not work. There are too many forces in Russia who are opposed to it... Tell me, have you taken the disposition of forces into account? In particular, President Yeltsin's opinion?

[Kebich] I can cite my recent meeting with him. It lasted three hours 30 minutes. I remember the president's words well: The union with Belarus must be concluded as quickly as possible. We stand to gain from this politically and economically.

[Gulyayev] Nevertheless, it cannot be ruled out that under pressure from various political forces the decision on the ruble zone will be postponed. Does your government have an alternative option?

[Kebich] Of course it does. That option is our own currency. We are ready for its introduction and, if necessary, we will be able to carry it out fairly quickly.

[Gulyayev] But it is a question of orientation. After all, recently in the republic there has been much debate about

the turn toward the West in counterbalance to the traditional preference for the East. Increasingly often the option of the Baltic-Black Sea market comes to mind. How do you regard this idea?

[Kebich] In itself it is not new. The People's Front's plans for the creation of a Baltic-Black Sea union have existed for a long time. This union is based on a clearly expressed desire to sever ties with Russia. But to lend the idea plausibility, they cite various economic computations, of course.

I do not regard the question that way. I cannot even tolerate the very title of the "Baltic-Black Sea union" (or market as you put it). Because Belarus has always had market relations—production and economic relations—with the Baltic. Even when the question of the economic blockade of Lithuania was being raised Belarus did not take part in that. We traded and continue to trade with our neighbors in Poland and Ukraine... These ties have never been broken off. So there is no reason to talk of creating some special market here.

Russia is a completely different kettle of fish. So long as my heart beats I will continue campaigning for a union with it as I always have done and am doing now. It is not just a question of economic circumstances. We are all linked by the closest spiritual bonds. We have a common history and similar cultures. There is no family which does not have kin or close friends in Russia. Severing those ties would really cut to the quick.

However, as we have already seen for ourselves, there are people on both sides who want to do just that. In NARODNAYA GAZETA, the organ of the Republic of Belarus Supreme Soviet, recently, Zenon Poznyak, the leader of the People's Front, wrote yet another article that was insulting to our Russian brothers. What is more, this man, who regards himself as a serious politician, made impudent territorial claims on Russia, Lithuania, and Poland publicly for the first time!

I repeat that his followers are few. Whereas those who support the union with Russia are industrial enterprise and collective and state farm leaders and business structures who are aware of the threat of further disintegration. The majority of the Belarus population favor union, a fact which is eloquently demonstrated not just by opinion poll findings but also by the many letters sent to the organs of state power and administration.

I think that with such support the government will succeed in implementing the decision on the economic union. And in this way my government's main political will be achieved!

[Gulyayev] One of the most important conditions for economic integration is the equality [adekvatnost] of economic systems, you said in a new year's eve address to diplomats. But does this not mean that Belarus will be forced to ape the economic and political decisions of the Russian Government? Including those which have led to the disintegration of collective farms in the countryside?

[Kebich] You would have been entirely right if it were a question of a political and economic union. But the ruble zone is not a political and economic union. It is first and foremost a single financial and monetary system. And that is all.

Russia will still have its Law on Land with all its idiosyncracies. Just as we will still have our law which envisages private ownership in very restricted limits—less than 20 percent of the land resources.

We will still have our law on the priority of agriculture and it is being implemented. In any event, whereas industrial enterprises have already stopped working because of the shortage of electricity not one milking operation on a single collective farm has been disrupted for that reason. And the main field campaigns have always been supplied with fuel.

Our policy of support for collective farms as the main agricultural producers and the development of measures for the social protection of peasants remains unchanged. Recently, for example, by special government decree the national bank opened a line of credit amounting to 715 billion rubles to finance costs incurred in the preparation for sowing work...

We are not going to blindly copy the state system in Russia either. In short, under the single monetary system Belarus will still have the possibility of following its own path. Just as Russia will. We have reached full understanding with Russia's leaders on this point.

[Gulyayev] Understanding is a good thing. But our rural readers are eternal pragmatists. They are accustomed to assessing all events from the standpoint of what actual benefit they bring. That is why we are putting the question in these terms: How will the agreement on the single monetary system affect the well being of the peasant, whether Belarusian or Russian?

[Kebich] To begin, let me say that I, too, am a pragmatic man. I do not like bombastic words, I prefer concrete and down-to-earth matters. That is why I propose to examine the situation using concrete examples.

Here is example number one: The energy sources presently being supplied to the republic from Russia reach our peasants at prices approximately one and one-half times higher than their Russian counterparts. But the existence of the single monetary system presupposes standard prices. So all the fuels and lubricants for peasants will become cheaper. This means that life will become easier for the Belarusian collective farm member and private farmer.

Example number two: Customs duties alone add about 35-40 percent to the cost price of a tractor, for example an MTZ, the moment that it crosses the border near Smolensk. But the agreement on the ruble zone envisages a single customs area. This means that the Smolensk peasant will be able to buy a Minsk tractor (or a feed combine harvester, or an MAZ vehicle, or a refrigerator) at almost half price. This means that life will become easier for them too.

I could cite a great many examples of this kind. But they all amount to the same thing: The economic union with Russia will bring real, tangible advantages not just to the peasant but to every citizen in our countries. And more and more people in Belarus understand that...

[Gulyayev] Do you mean the people who form the so-called "Kebich party"? After all, you know that this term has appeared in some politicians' speeches, don't you? In other words, your government is being viewed not even as a team of like-minded people but as something considerably broader—as a political force. Do you agree with this assessment? If so, how do you rate the chances of the "Kebich party" in the coming elections?

[Kebich] Yes, there has always been much hullaballoo and the use of labels and stock phrases around me and my supporters. First there was talk of a "team." Then they began saying that this is not simply a team but a party. Generally speaking I am not afraid of this word. Although there is an opinion that the government should be outside party politics. But in real life that is not the way of things. Thus it is possible that a party will appear in the future... It is not ruled out. One thing is clear: Whatever name is used, we, the sensible politicians and economic managers, represent a real force which one way or another is influencing political processes. Life will show how powerful that influence is going to be.

Differences 'Narrowing' on Monetary Union With Russia

LD0702200094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 25 (515) for 7 February 1994]

[Text] Russian and Belarusian experts have ended a three-day meeting at a government retreat outside Minsk by narrowing differences on the four main directions in a mechanism for creating a monetary union between Russia and Belarus, one senior negotiator told Interfax on condition of anonymity.

These include a mechanism of account-settling, budgetary problems, the rate of exchange of the Russian and Belarussian currencies and a single price system.

Unlike Moscow which insists on a single budget, Belarus wants to hold back to its own budget because of fearing to forfeit its sovereignty.

It was agreed that the Russian and Belarusian currencies would be exchanged at a one-to-three rate for non-cash operations and a one-to-one rate in cash settlements. (In a formal letter to the Belarusian government, the IMF recommended a 1:2.5-3 rate of exchange. IF). The agreed rate of exchange is not final being subject to substantial change, the negotiator said.

Nor was there any final agreement reached on uniform price policies. But preliminary counts indicate Minsk will inevitably have to sustain part of the cost for the maintenance of Russian army bases deploying long-range nuclear weapons there if a monetary union deal is signed.

Contrary to local expectations, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was due to arrive in Minsk next week to sign a package of agreements on the monetary union, was unlikely to arrive there until February 18, the official said.

Deputy Premier on Talks

WS0702204794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Today, First Deputy Prime Minister Mikolay Myasnikovich held a news conference on the results of talks with a Russian delegation on the merging of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems and the creation of a single ruble zone. According to Mikolay Myasnikovich, both parties have stated that obligatory conditions for the functioning of a single money system are as follows:

1. The setting up of equal conditions for mutual trade between economic entities in Russia and Belarus;
2. The creation of a single mechanism for price formulation.
3. The use by Belarusian economic entities of Russian prices for energy and other resources;
4. The setting up of single customs duties [as heard].

Mikolay Myasnikovich said that the parties have agreed on the methods for establishing the exchange rate of Belarusian "hares" and Russian rubles. According to these calculations, as of 1 January 1994, the exchange rate of one Belarusian "hare" to one Russian ruble is 2.19:1. The exchange rate as of 1 March 1994 will likely be 2.5:1.

Hryb Affirms Commitment to Military

WS0702161194 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 3 Feb 94 p 1

[Interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb by A. Bezveselnyy; place and date not given: "Mechyslaw Hryb: 'My Attitude Toward the Military Has Not Changed'"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Hryb] My attitude toward the military—for me, this category includes not only servicemen, but also law enforcement officials and KGB officers—did not change and has remained the same since I was elected chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. However, I would like to ask all these categories of people to enhance their struggle against crime and to further strengthen the legal order.

[Bezveselnyy] This task better fits militia organs, does it not?

[Hryb] Not only. Servicemen can help militia organs maintain civil order by carrying out joint patrols. In addition, maintaining military discipline among the troops is of primary importance as well. Therefore, the leadership of the executive branch ministries (I have already spoken with all of them) do not oppose this issue. I believe that we can still do this work and we can activate our fight against crime to give our people the chance to live and work.

[Bezveselnyy] In a word, you have nominated new ministers instead the old ones....

[Hryb] Not yet. I spoke about people who act as power ministers. In the immediate future, a corresponding Supreme Soviet and Cabinet of Ministers commission will nominate candidates for these posts.

[Bezveselnyy] Well, one last question: Who will head the Supreme Soviet Commission for National Security, Defense, and Crime Fighting?

[Hryb] We have not yet discussed this issue. In my mind, we will do so in due time.

Moldova

Snegur Urges People To Prevent Bloodshed

AU0702215294 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2040 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Report by Chisinau correspondent Mircea Dascaliuc]

[Text] Today, in a statement broadcast on the national radio and television, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur called on, quote, all people of good-faith on both sides of the Dniester who cherish peace and tranquillity, end quote, and urged them to stop all those who wish to start a new conflict in this area. The Dniester side virtually refuses to fulfill the assumed commitment, namely, to implement the Moldovan-Russian accord signed on 21 July 1992, which refers to the peaceful settlement of the conflict, said President Snegur.

In the security zone that has been instituted on both banks of the Dniester River, the separatists of Tiraspol recently deployed numerous military formations, motorized, infantry, or rocket units, the president of the Republic of Moldova also announced, adding that the situation has worsened even more due to the proclamation of the state of emergency that led to the enclosing of the local population within a real reservation.

Further, Mr. Mircea Snegur referred to the violation of human rights by the authorities of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, who, not wishing to cooperate in the activity of finding political solutions to the conflict, can organize other provocative acts that might end with new bloodshed.

The appeal concluded with the following words, quote, we will not admit solutions to the current problems through the use of force. The responsibility for the eventual consequences of the provocations rests with the leaders in Tiraspol, end quote.

A declaration with a similar content was issued today also by the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Moldova.

Also in Chisinau, the Central Electoral Commission, which will supervise the elections, held a meeting and examined issues connected with electoral lists and the regulations regarding the statute of the representatives of the parties and independent candidates.

Likewise, the meeting discussed a request submitted by Ilie Ilascu [Tiraspol detainee], candidate on behalf of the Alliance of the Christian Democratic Popular Front of Moldova, who requests that appropriate conditions should be created so that he can address the electorate in accordance with the legal provisions. The Central Electoral Commission suggested that the request should be submitted to President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur and ask him, in his capacity of head of state, to intervene and fulfill candidate Ilie Ilascu's request. In this respect, a decision of the Central Electoral Commission will probably be taken tomorrow, Radio Chisinau reported.

Snegur Views Ethnic Issues With Dniester Residents

AU0602175594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1905 GMT 4 Feb 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 4/2/1994—This afternoon President Mircea Snegur met with a group of inhabitants of Rabnita city situated on the left bank of Dniester; they mentioned the violation of human rights in east Moldova, states the Presidential Press Service. They said the teachers of the sole Moldovan school in the city are harassed and threatened to be fired if they do not comply with orders of Dniester authorities to use Cyrillic script. Pupils' parents decided to protest by not letting their children attend the school beginning with 7 February. Their initiative is supported by the parents of pupils attending the two Moldovan schools in Tiraspol and Tighina (Bender). With the emergency state decreed by Igor Smirnov, Moldovans have no right in Dniester to protest against the imposed Cyrillic script and the aggravated economic crisis, caused by the Tiraspol leaders' refusal to use Moldovan national currency. They also cannot protest against Smirnov's decree according to which all state employees are compelled to adopt until 15 February Dniestrian citizenship. In their opinion, measures to stop the libertinism of Dniester's leaders should be undertaken. President Snegur stated that for preserving Moldova's integrity only political methods will be used and this corresponds with CSCE Mission's recommendations. The president requested Richard Samuel, new head of the CSCE Mission to Moldova, to consider the complaints of Rabnita inhabitants. Richard Samuel talked to representatives of Rabnita soon after their meeting with Snegur, states the Presidential Press Service.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Postpones Moscow Visit Over Baykonur

LD0802120794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The visit to Moscow by Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev scheduled for 12 February has again been postponed indefinitely. The plan was to meet Boris Yeltin in Moscow en route for New York, but now Nursultan Nazarbayev has canceled that, we were told today by the Kazakhstani president's press service. Andrey Kondrashov reports.

[Kondrashov] This latest rejection by the president of Kazakhstan is not, as it seemed, linked to the upcoming visit to Almaty by Andrey Kozyrev. The Kazakh leader canceled his talks with the Russian president much earlier. In addition, the arrival of Russia's Foreign Ministry chief in the republic will not by any means resolve all the problems between the two states.

Observers put this down to Kazakhstan's unwillingness to hold talks on military cooperation in particular.

The stumbling block, as before, is Baykonur. Kazakhstan does not want to lease it to Russia on the previous terms. Having declared the space site to be its own property, the republic wants, I quote, to hive off only the military part of it for the Russian military, leaving the civilian part for itself to put to commercial use.

Since Russia continues to maintain all of Baykonur, it quite naturally sees this option as unacceptable. Moreover, the duration of the lease on Baykonur and the cosmodrome's status have yet to be decided. In addition to this, the very presence of Russian military units on Kazakhstan territory is a breach of the constitution. And, Kazakhstan has still not elected a parliament settle the issue.

It looks as if Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Almaty has simpler aims. Even before his arrival, Nursultan Nazarbayev announced that Kozyrev will not get him to introduce dual citizenship. However, the president of Kazakhstan has in advance drawn up a compromise for Russia. Instead of dual citizenship, he intends to propose to Andrey Kozyrev a simplified procedure for Kazakhstan's ethnic Russians to obtain Russian citizenship.

Nazarbayev Issues Resolution on Mutual Debts

LD0702153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty February 7 TASS—Kazakhstan will offset mutual debts of its enterprises beginning from February 17, according to a resolution of President Nursultan Nazarbayev which was made public on Monday [7 February].

The document called "On Offsetting Mutual Debts" says it is necessary to eliminate overdue debts of enterprises and organisations, to create conditions for a free flow of goods and stop production slump.

The document promises a "principally new approach" to the offset of debts and instructs the government and the National Bank to "work out a mechanism of its implementation which would not allow a rise of infltaion and a fall of the national currency".

The government was instructed to offset debts with reserve money and foreign loans.

The offset will allow to determine those who are truly bankrupt and begin implementing the law on bankruptcy, according to the document.

Issues Resolution on Supreme Court

LD0702192294 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] In connection with a pre-term dissolution of the Supreme Kenges, which was charged with the responsibility of arranging the functioning of courts, and in conformity with the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the temporary delegation of additional powers to the president and heads of local administrations, [President] Nursultan Nazarbayev issued the following resolution on organizational issues of the work of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

To state that the number of members of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan is determined by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan; and the structure and number of personnel of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan is determined by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan after they have been submitted by the Supreme Court chairman of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Meets EBRD Representatives

LD0802115594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0000 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Excerpts] According to the government's press service, Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov received representatives of the mission of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD]. [passage omitted]

Under discussion were loans to the Kyrgyz Republic in three spheres: financing of small and medium-sized businesses, finding foreign partners to invest in the private sector, and elaboration of (?technical and economic) basis for state-owned enterprises. The head of government described plans for developing tourism together with foreign investors, ore and gold deposits, setting up enterprises for processing agricultural produce, and production of paper and (?glassware).

Resolution on Improving Public Order, Curbing Crime

LD0702195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov signed Monday the government resolution "On Measures to Strengthen Public Order and Curb Crimes."

According to the document, the republic's Interior Ministry was ordered to work out urgent measures to strengthen public order and increase control over the activities of the police and the Interior Ministry servicemen and conduct in the first half of the year an appraisal of the Interior Ministry's leadership.

Among the priorities of the police is to enforce order in public transport and toughen control over the observance of the passport regime.

Tajikistan

'Unidentified Gunmen' Kill Volunteer

LD0802080194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By KHOVAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, February 8—A volunteer of the international nongovernmental organisation "Physicians Without Frontiers" [PWF] [Doctors Without Borders] was killed in southern Tajikistan by unidentified gunmen, the national news agency KHOVAR reported today. The man was a Tajik national who had worked for the organisation for three weeks only.

Organisation coordinator Bruno Meesen told KHOVAR that the man, whose name was not disclosed, was killed last Thursday when a truck with PWF insignia was carrying building materials. The truck was stopped by gunmen who shot and killed the volunteer. The driver and an assistant expert, also Tajik nationals, escaped unscathed.

Armed Afghan Militants Clash With Border Guards

LD0802112694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0952 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 8 TASS—Around 30 armed militants made an attempt to illegally cross from Afghanistan into Tajikistan on Monday night, in the area of the 12th Pyandzh border guard post controlled by Russian border guards, ITAR-TASS learned on Tuesday [8 February] from the press-service of Russian border guard troops.

The militants seized one of Tajik islands on the Pyandzh river. Their positions came under fire opened by the Tajik side, afterwards, the militants retreated to the adjoining territory, the same source said.

Turkmenistan

President in 'Good Condition' After Surgery in U.S.

LD0702130994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1143 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov had surgery in Houston, Texas, U.S.A., Saturday [5 February], for phlebitis of his left leg.

He flew to the U.S. for an examination on February 1 following the end of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Sources close to the Turkmenistan Government told Interfax that Niyazov was in good condition after the surgery. He is expected in Turkmenistan next Wednesday or Thursday.

Uzbekistan

Kozyrev Begins Visit, Prepares for Summit

LD0802065194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0644 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Neyzmatov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tashkent February 8 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, currently on a visit to Uzbekistan, visited the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Tashkent on Tuesday [8 February].

Kozyrev arrived in Tashkent on Monday night.

After Kozyrev's visit to the Russian Embassy Russo-Uzbek talks began. In an interview with ITAR-TASS Kozyrev said that the main aim of his visit is the preparation for the Russo-Uzbek summit scheduled in Moscow on February 25.

During the visit Kozyrev intends to discuss with the leadership of the republic a wide range of problems pertaining to cooperation in economic, military-technical, and humanitarian spheres.

Later in the day Kozyrev will meet with Uzbek President Islam Karimov and visit the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

On Tuesday evening Kozyrev will leave Tashkent for Almaty.

Holds Talks With Foreign Minister

LD0802110494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0950 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vilor Niyazmatov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tashkent February 8 TASS—The second day of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's stay in Uzbekistan began with his visit to the Russian Embassy in the Uzbek capital. After the conversation in the embassy

Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS there was an exchange of opinions about the best ways of discussing with the Uzbekistan leadership a number of problems of bilateral relations, the questions of citizenship, migration, right of property.

Kozyrev believes that although problems still exist and some of them are acute, their discussion with Uzbek leaders is calm and constructive, without mutual recriminations. He believes that since his latest visit to Tashkent last year, the acuteness lessened and misunderstanding decreased. From the Russian Embassy Kozyrev headed for the Uzbekistan Foreign Ministry and began negotiations with Uzbek Foreign Minister Saidmukhtar Said Asymov.

Armenia

'Thick Fog' Forces Calm on Karabakh Fronts

NC0702180194 Yerevan SNARK in English 0912 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 7 (SNARK)— A relative calm, interrupted only by sporadic fire exchange, has set in at the Karabakh fronts. SNARK was informed of it in the Headquarters of the Karabakh Defence Army.

Observers say the calm is connected with a thick fog, which hampers active fights.

Fighting in North Reported

NC0702204194 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2000 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Since Saturday's incident when the two Azerbaijani Air Force planes violated Armenia's air space over Vardenisskiy Rayon and were chased away by our air defense forces, the Azerbaijani side has been maintaining silence. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that a relative calm has prevailed on Armenia's borders for the last three days.

The relative calm established along most of Karabakh frontline in recent days is still being maintained. Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army headquarters reported that the fighting continued only in the north of Kelbadzharskiy Rayon in the direction of Omar Pass over the last day. But dense fog and heavy snowfall on the mountains are hampering active military operations.

Despite that, the Karabakh forces managed to destroy one enemy armored car and three troop carriers, and killed a great number of Azerbaijani soldiers.

Losses Reported

NC0702211694 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2050 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] According to Seyran Hovanyan, head of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army headquarters, the noticeable drop in the activity of the Azerbaijani Army all along the Karabakh war front is due to a depletion of its strength resulting from the incessant large offensives since 18 December and from failure to achieve any tangible results.

Certain successes scored by the Azerbaijani Army at the start of the winter campaign due to its multifold superiority in men and material were mostly localized and temporary, and they were soon neutralized by the Karabakh army units.

The unprecedented losses suffered by the Azerbaijani Army also played a significant role in lessening the intensity of the military operations.

According to data available to NKR Defense Army headquarters, the Azerbaijani side lost up to 5,000 soldiers and officers killed over the last one and half months. It also lost one military aircraft; 62 armored cars, including 36 tanks; 12 cannons and artillery pieces, three of them Grad launchers; and large amounts of other military equipment.

In that same period, nearly 300 fighters were killed on the Karabakh side. Its losses in military hardware amounted to 24 military vehicles, which were completely recouped by the capture of tanks and armored personnel carriers from the Azerbaijanis.

In that same one and half months, 26 Azerbaijanis servicemen surrendered voluntarily. Among them are also citizens of other countries.

According to Seyran Hovanyan, no matter how much the Azerbaijani side tries to cover up its losses, its consequences cannot but effect the situation on the war front and the morale of the Azerbaijani Army.

President Departs on Official Visit to Britain

LD0802102294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0907 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 8 Feb—The president of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosyan, departed this morning on an official visit to Britain at the invitation of Prime Minister John Major. During the three-day visit, the president and the Armenian state delegation he is leading will hold talks with the head of the British cabinet and also with the Secretaries of State for foreign affairs and defence which will focus on further development of the two countries' political, economic and cultural cooperation.

On Wednesday there will be a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II. On the same day, the Armenian leader will address the Royal Institute for International Relations. The agenda also includes talks with the leader of the Anglican Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury, a meeting with representatives of the 12,000-strong Armenian community in Britain, and a press conference.

A meeting with the president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Jacques de Larosiere, is scheduled for Thursday.

The visit is expected to culminate in the signing of a package of inter-governmental agreements, in particular on the basic principles of cooperation between Armenia and Great Britain, on scientific exchanges and on direct air services between the two countries.

Terrorism Threats Urge Aliyev Resignation

NC0702205394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1244 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, February 7, (SNARK)—Confidential sources in Baku told SNARK that the youth patriotic organization entering the Azerbaijani People's Front has appealed Geydar Aliyev to resign as a president. Otherwise, the organization threatens to effect terrorist and sabotage acts on Azerbaijan territory.

In this connection, the official circles in Azerbaijan do not rule out that the recent explosion in the Baku-Kislovodsk passenger train was undertaken by fighters of this organization.

Papazyan: Foreign Military Aid Goes to Azerbaijan

NC0702175694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0916 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Yerevan, February 7. (SNARK)—Azerbaijan receives great military help from Turkey and Afghanistan, Vahan Papazyan, Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister told Armenian TV. According to Mr.Papazyan, the mercenaries from the CIS are fighting the Azeris side. So, Azerbaijan hopes Karabakh conflict could be solved by force.

Rapid changes take place with the Azerbaijani authorities, but no changes take place with the political course of the state. "It seems as if only Abulfaz Elchibey, during the last months of his power was taking the course of peaceful regulation of the conflict", said Vahan Papazyan.

Mr. Papazyan reaffirmed the position taken by the Armenian side—military ways of the conflict solution will give no results.

Envoys Take Message to Kuwaiti Leader

NC0702221494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2050 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Eduard Nalbandyan, the Armenian charge d'affaires ad interim in Egypt, and (Bogos Akobov), a Moscow diplomat and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, submitted a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to Amir of Kuwait Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah during their visit to Kuwait on 5 February.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry press and public relations service reported that numerous matters relating to the establishment and development of ties between Armenia and Kuwait were discussed in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

Eduard Nalbandyan and (Bogos Akobov) were received the same day by the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah. Matters pertaining to cooperation between the two countries were raised during the meeting.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Discusses Conflict With Russian Envoy

NC0702191094 Baku TURAN in English 1232 GMT 5 Feb 94

[Text] Baku (February 4) TURAN—Today President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan received Russian Ambassador in Azerbaijan Valter Shonia on his request.

During the meeting Aliyev said that development of political, and economic relations with Russia is of a strategic importance for Azerbaijan. He also said that Baku will do anything to maintain the many sided relations with its northern neighbour.

Touching upon the Russia's mediation role in the regulation of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Geydar Aliyev said, that "Armenian party forwards the unacceptable conditions, and what a shame that Special Russian Envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, in fact, took a pro-Armenian position."

In his turn Russian Ambassador said that "Moscow understands the processes happening in Azerbaijan and the positions of our countries coincide in many aspects." Shonia also said that Russian leadership is ready for any cooperation with Azerbaijan. Then the meeting continued behind the closed doors.

Meanwhile, as a source at the Russian Foreign Ministry told the Moscow correspondent of TURAN news agency, Moscow began "twisting Azerbaijan's arms" recently, trying to force it to receive the Russian plan for the regulation of the Armenian-Azeri conflict. According to the information available, Russia insists on the acceptance of the plan, presented by Vladimir Kazimirov last week. As reported the idea of the plan is - the parties to the conflict declare cessation of hostilities, then Russian troops are stationed in the conflict zone, and the Armenian forces withdraw from the southern regions of Azerbaijan (Dzhebrailskiy, Fizuliskiy, Agdamskiy). After all this is implemented, the sides will begin the discussion of the political status of Nagorno-Karabakh and the question of the Armenian withdrawal from Kelbadzharskiy region of Azerbaijan.

Minister on Rescue of Armenian Occupied Territory

TA0702152194 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1455 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baku, Feb 7 (A.A)—Azeri Defense Minister Mehmet Refigi [name and title as received] said Azerbaijan was resolved to rescue its territory from Armenian occupation, it was reported on Monday [7 February].

Refigi told AA reporter that Armenian troops which can not stand against Azeri forces were in panic.

Speaking on the recent situation in Azerbaijan Refigi said everything has changed after President Geydar Aliyev has come to power, adding that thirty percent of our territory are under Armenian occupation and more than one million people living here became refugees.

Refigi said Armenian attacks were stopped [words indistict] army has been set up.

He said administrators, soldiers and the public have a 'belief' in unity, adding that they will reach victory with this unity.

Refigi said Armenian soldiers devastated Azeri cities, townships and villages and they set buildings into fire while they fled.

He said there would not be any ceasefire unless Armenia withdraws from Azeri territory.

Refigi said Turkey has great contributions to Azerbaijan adding that they were thankful for this support.

'Relative Calm' Descends on Karabakh Conflict

LD0802094794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0717 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] The relative calm which descended on the area of the conflict in Karabakh in the past few days has prevailed over the past 24 hours, Interfax was told by the press service of Nagorno- Karabakh's defense army. Routine exchanges of fire, which had no impact on the line-up of the warring sides, took place only at a few sectors, largely in the north and northeast of Karabakh.

Fighting Continues

LD0702150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1430 GMT 7 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow February 7 TASS—Fighting has been going since Monday morning in the north of the Kelbadzhar region in the area of the Azeri-Karabakh conflict, ITAR-TASS learned by telephone from the Nagorno-Karabakh press and information department with reference to the Nagorno-Karabakh army headquarters.

A relative lull was reported at other areas of the front, where no active military operations were held, except occasional skirmishes. The Nagorno-Karabakh army headquarters reported that three pieces of the Azeri military hardware were destroyed on Sunday.

Azeri bombers continue air-raids. On Monday, air-raid warnings were made twice in Stepanakert.

Official Denies Report on Military Base Talks

PM0702165194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Feb 94 First Edition p 6

[Untitled report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and ITAR-TASS roundup under the "In One Paragraph" rubric]

[Text] Azerbaijan—Vafa Gulizad, state counselor for international policy issues, commenting on an "Ostankino" report about the siting of a Russian military base in Azerbaijan, stated that the Azerbaijani leadership has held no talks on this issue with Russia.

Official Recounts Azerbaijani Losses in Fighting

LD0802094294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0821 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Azerbaijan's death toll in the past six weeks of regional fighting runs at about 5,000, a Karabakh military official told INTERFAX.

Seiran Oganian said Azerbaijan lost a large amount of weapons including one aircraft, more than 60 units of armor (36 of them tanks), 12 artillery pieces and three rocket launchers and a large amount of other weaponry. He said as many as 36 Azeri troops were taken prisoner, some of them mercenaries from other countries.

The official put the Karabakh army's losses over the same period at some 300 dead. He said that Armenian forces had also lost 25 units of armor but these were replenished at the cost of tanks and army vehicles captured from Azerbaijan.

On the relative calm on the front lines, Oganian said this followed an unprecedented toll of casualties, exhaustion and frustration by the Azeri army.

He says Azerbaijan's initial successes in the early stages of the latest offensive due to its preponderance of troops and weapons were temporary and had soon been neutralized by Armenian troops.

Georgia

U.S. Diplomat's Killer Sentenced to 15 Years

LD0702184594 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Summary] The Georgian Supreme Court today sentenced the killer of Fred Woodruff, a U.S. diplomat attached to the U.S. embassy in Tbilisi, to 15 years' imprisonment .

In an incident that took place on a highway near Tbilisi on 8 August 1993, a private in the Georgian Defense Ministry's 3d battalion, Anzor Sharmaidze, fired at a passing car carrying Woodruff, killing the American on the spot.

Further Details

LD0702165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The Georgian Supreme Court has sentenced to 15 years in prison unemployed Anzor Sharmaidze, who shot dead U.S. embassy official Fred Woodruff on August 8, 1993, 30 kilometers from Tbilisi. The verdict was announced on February 7 in Tbilisi.

Sharmaidze, 21, alleged that he had fired at a passing car, not knowing who was in it, after hopeless attempts to stop any car to borrow several liters of gasoline. A bullet hit Fred Woodruff in the head.

The head of Eduard Shevardnadze's security service, who was driving the car, was freed from his duties after the tragedy.

According to various sources, Woodruff was a high-ranking CIA staffer who instructed Shevardnadze's security guards in Tbilisi. CIA chief James Woolsey came to Tbilisi to collect Woodruff's body.

Russians Return To Set Up Military Bases

NC0702171694 Baku TURAN in English 1406 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Baku (February 5) TURAN—Being in Georgia Russian Defense Ministry, Pavel Grachev said that the protocol of intention concerning location of Russian military bases in Georgia had been signed. Three bases are

supposed to be set up: in Tbilisi in Vaziani region (Military-Air forces), in Akhalkalaki (Motor-infantry brigade) and in Batumi (Motor-infantry brigade). Batumi's base will have its branch offices in Sukhumi, Poti and Gudauta. The bases will be established from those Russian troops which located now in Transcaucasia. They are mostly infantry troops, aircraft, planes SU-25 and bombing aviation. It should be noticed that Russian military bases are set up in Georgian regions neighbouring with Turkey which are inhabited by Armenians and Adzhars.

Military ships of the Black Sea fleet will be placed in Poti. The bases will be established till July 1 1994. Their goal is to safeguard the security of Russia and Caucasian countries which enter Collective Security Pact.

The troops located in Georgia will be led by Commandant of the group of Russian troops in the Caucasia General Fedor Reut excluding 345th landing regiment. This regiment is under the control of Russian Defense Minister.

In the times of the USSR a corps consisting of three motor-infantry divisions, units of 40th air army and units of the 19th army was located on the territory of Georgia.

As far as the 4 point of the agreement (on equipment of Georgian armed forces with Russian technique) concerns, the Russian President Yeltsin said that one can not speak about military equipment until the problems concerning ethnic minorities of Abkhaz and South Osets are left unsolved.

According to Foreign Minister Kozyrev, the agreement can stimulate the achievement of political settlement of the situation in Abkhaz and South Osetia.

However, on February 4 Deputy Chairman of Abkhaz mass media Yuriy Vorontsov said that Georgian government set South Osetia and Abkhaz outside of Georgia.

Minister of Foreign Relations of South Osetia, Urusmak Jioyev stated that Russia tries to settle Georgian problems by military way. He recalled recent developments in Western Georgia when "Russian troops seized the whole regions and the supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia committed the genocydis".

Deputy Chairman of mass media of South Osetia, Valeriy Khubulov said that republic step aside from Georgia and joined the Northern Osetia. "We want to live together with the Northern Osetia", he stressed.

At the same time political and social movements of the nations of the North Caucasus (excluding Inghush) came out against the conclusion of Russian-Georgian treaty. According to the opinion of the leadership of the Confederation of the Caucasian Nations, Russia decided to back Georgia to strengthen its positions on the Black Sea and the Caucasus. This Moscow's policy will lead to the fact that Russia will lose its positions in the North Caucasus which is isolated from Russia. The officials of the North Caucasus say that the more Russia tries to preserve the integrity of Georgia the more the nations of the North Caucasus step aside from it.

The day before Boris Yeltsin's visit to Georgia, Russian State Duma came out against conclusion of the treaty with Georgia. According to majority deputies, if Moscow establishes close relations with Tbilisi it will lose the North Caucasus.

Ioseliani Welcomes UN Resolution, Yeltsin Visit

AU0802102594 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 4 Feb 94 p 1

[Report by GIA (GEORGIAN INFORMATION SERVICE) correspondent Galina Chikovani on the press conference given by Dzhaba Ioseliani, head of the Georgian delegation at the Geneva talks on the Abkhazian conflict, chairman of the Interim Committee for the State of Emergency Under the Head of State, leader of the Mkhedrioni paramilitary organization, on 2 February; place not given: "Dzhaba Ioseliani: 'The New UN Resolution on Settling the Conflict in Abkhazia Is an Important Phenomenon'"]

[Text] Dzhaba Ioseliani went on the offensive at the beginning of the press conference held on 2 February.

"Abkhazia is Georgia's pain and a journalist should not ignore any question pertaining to it. Moreover, such important events and documents as the negotiations in Geneva and the communique and resolutions adopted by the UN demand constant attention on the part of the media. Belated news evokes justified indignation and confusion."

Objective information should be provided on the fate of the 300,000 refugees and thus satisfy journalists and the interest of 5 million people. The journalists reacted to these justified remarks in silence and silence is a sign of agreement.

Then Ioseliani acquainted those present with UN Security Council Resolution 896.

"The main thing," he explained, "is for the refugees to return to their homeland without being presented with any preliminary conditions. Let anyone return who does not present any kind of danger [a condition advanced by the Abkhazian side]—this is an absolutely absurd idea. Who determines this danger? This violates the chief principle of the UN: the protection of human rights.

"No less important," continued Mr. Dzhaba, "is that the resolution condemns any forms of changing the demographic composition of Abkhazia and the Republic of Georgia, including by means of settling people who did not live there before."

The news that the UN supports the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces or other forces sanctioned by the UN in the conflict zone aroused great interest.

The peacekeeping forces will become a guarantee for the return of refugees to their native land.

"It is essential to point out that this resolution," said Mr. Dzhaba, "adopted on 31 January of this year is the

outcome of the meeting in Paris between our head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, and UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali."

Naturally, the journalists raised many questions in connection with the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Georgia.

"This is indeed an historic event. A legal basis will be laid for all our relations."

Many questions related to the political status of Abkhazia.

"Georgia has never abolished the autonomy of Abkhazia; however, nor has it agreed with the feudal reasoning of the Abkhazian separatists."

Everyone was interested in hearing his views on recent events [the killing of several Mkhedrioni leaders and the planned disbandment of the organization]. Mr. Dzhaba similarly did not refuse to give an answer to this complex question.

"It is indeed difficult for me to speak about this. It suits some people to speak out against the Mkhedrioni but let them not forget that the Mkhedrioni has lost more than 600 young men during the last four years. Our idea focused on the creation of a Georgian army, based on a national army, one led by professionals.

"As for the Rescue Corps [into which the Mkhedrioni has been incorporated], we still have few professionals; therefore, we are sending young people to other countries to be trained and to acquire experience."

Abkhazia Accused of Trying to Derail Talks

LD0702195994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1810 GMT 7 Feb 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 25 (515)]

[Text] The Georgian government said that the processes now underway in the Gali District of Abkhazia showed that the Abkahzian leaders tried to thwart the Geneva talks on resolving the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The Georgian government said in a statement made public Monday that it "is prepared to continue the search for a political settlement through negotiations but will take every step to protect Georgian citizens in the area which is occupied today by separatists and their protectors."

The document accuses what it described as "certain political quarters in Russia" of "virtually provoking the Gudauta leaders into a new escalation of barbarism" by rejecting a comprehensive treaty between Georgia and Russia.

Statement Assails Gudauta Separatist 'Genocide'

LD0702184994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 7 Feb 94

["Statement of the Government of the Republic of Georgia"—read by announcer]

[Text] It is more than two months since the world community became actively involved in the process of conflict settlement in Abkhazia. As a result of two rounds of UN-sponsored talks held in Geneva through the good offices of the Russian Federation and with the participation of the CSCE, a memorandum of 1 December 1993 and a communique of 13 January 1994 were signed. Both documents urge the conflicting sides to renounce violence, mapping out ways for a peaceful settlement.

Nevertheless, Gudauta separatists are continuing to use artillery to shell the population in the Kodori gorge, burn down villages in Gali Rayon, and kill and attack civilians, women, children, and the elderly. Facts have emerged of killings of dozens of people, including prominent public figures. In effect, the deliberate policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing against the Georgian population in Abkhazia is continuing.

Details of the latest act of vandalism committed by Gudauta separatists have emerged. With the use of heavy equipment, they burned down six villages in Gali rayon - Priveli Gali, Konstitutsia, Rechkhi, Pkhira, Namarkeli, and Ghumerishi. Hundreds of innocent people were burned to death in the fires.

It is noteworthy that this latest act of barbarism occurred ahead of two important dates mentioned in the Geneva Communique of 13 January: 8 February, when a joint group of experts working on Abkhazia's status meets in Moscow, and 10 February, which is the beginning of the voluntary and peaceful repatriation of refugees and displaced persons to Gali Rayon. It is likely that the latest brutal act committed by the separatists was aimed at wrecking the Geneva process.

The government of the Republic of Georgia states that it remains a supporter of and participant in the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia but, at the same time, is ready to take all measures to defend Georgia's citizens who remain on the territory occupied by the separatists and their hirelings. We are also saying this in order to bring it to the attention of forces in Russia who by their opposition to the treaty between Russia and Georgia have in fact incited the Gudauta group to step up their barbarism.

Forces Thwart Georgian Sabotage Attack on Bridge

LD0802093594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0717 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Abkhazian troops early on Monday thwarted an attempt by Georgian sabotage groups to try to blow up a bridge across the Inguri River separating the two confronting sides, the Abkhazian Defense Ministry said. All of the saboteurs were taken prisoner.

It says the attack followed a 30-minute mortar fire on Abkhazian positions close to the village of Tagiloni. There were casualties among Georgian civilians.

The ministry says the Abkhazian army has continued operations to wipe out Georgian sabotage groups infiltrating the Gal region.

Abkhaz Ministry Denies Involvement in Hostilities

LD0702203794 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] The Abkhaz Ministry of Defense has released information which claims that at 0200 on 7 February Georgian guerrilla units in Abkhazia attempted to blow up a road bridge near Gali and that the attempt was foiled by Abkhaz militants. The same report says that the Georgian side shelled Abkhaz positions for 30 minutes.

This information was deliberately spread by the Abkhaz separatists, in order to blame the Georgian side for violating the agreement on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia and to block the return of refugees to Gali Rayon.

In this connection, the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry has stated the Georgian Armed Forces strictly adhere to the Geneva agreement and have not been engaged in any hostilities.

As for the loss of 60 people in Okumi [village in Gali Rayon], this information does not correspond to reality either.

Ministry Officer Killed; Investigation Demanded

LD0802115694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] [Announcer Sergey Vozianov] (Vasil Koberidze), an officer of the Georgian Ministry of Security was killed in Tbilisi last night. This is the fourth terrorist act in the past two weeks carried out against high-ranking members of Georgia's "power" structures. None was investigated. Deputies of the parliament demanded that Eduard Shevardnadze and Giorgadze, security minister, report on the progress of investigating the terrorist acts.

New Body Planned To Coordinate Security Services

LD0802093694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0818 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] A high-ranking official from the Russian Federation Security Council confirmed in an interview with INTERFAX on Monday that a separate structure might soon be established to coordinate activities of the Russian special services.

However, he refuted the allegations by certain media that this could lead to a merging between the special services and to establishment of a "super department" like the Ministry of Security and Interior Affairs.

The Ministry of Security and Interior Affairs was set up in early 1993 on the initiative of former Security Chief Viktor Barannikov under the presidential decree. However, this ministry was soon abolished by the president himself under the Constitutional Court's resolution.

The Security Council's official believes that it would be preliminary to discuss possible composition of the "community of special services."

According to certain media, the leaders of the Federal Counter-Intelligence Service, the Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Agency of Governmental Communications and Information, the Main Department of Defense, the president's Security Service, the Intelligence Department of the Russian Armed Forces' General Staff and chiefs of the departments which are to be created on the basis of the reorganized Interior Ministry will be included in this body.

According to the Security Council's official, it is unlikely that the Russian president will make a practical move towards the coordinating body's establishment. "It is necessary to determine exactly the authority of each integral part of the new body before this happens," the official emphasized.

Estonia

New Finance, Economics Ministers Begin Work

WS0702204694 Tallinn ETA in English 1532 GMT 7 Feb 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Two new members of the Estonian Riigikogu started their work on Monday—Kristiina Ojuland and Peeter Ello, to replace former MPs Heiki Kranich, now minister of finance and Toivo Jurgenson, now minister of economics.

Kristiina Ojuland (27, Liberals' faction) was up to now Estonian representative to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Peeter Ello (38, Fatherland faction) was the former director general of the Board of Citizenship.

Premier Deems Social Tax Increase 'Fatal'

WS0702201494 Tallinn ETA in English 1701 GMT 7 Feb 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar, in answer to parliament's social committee question about the possibility of increasing social tax, told the parliament that the government considers such a step "fatal" for Estonian economy.

Laar affirmed that the government has repeatedly analyzed the decrease in retired persons income due to inflation and price rise, and has prepared a bill on increasing retirement benefits that should reach Riigikogu by April 1. At present the pension is approximately 300 ($21) kroons, depending on the years of labour, per month.

Prime Minister said that increase of pensions would demand an additional 200 million kroons (about $14 million) to increase pensions by 50-60 kroons ($4). He said that the situation could possibly be solved by dividing the social tax, which at present is 20 per cent for companies, between the employers and the employees, a move, which is not supported by the social committee of the parliament. Also turnover tax or excise duty on tobacco and alcohol could be increased a couple of per cent or the tax payment control increased by Tax Board, which, however, demanded higher budget for the board.

Prime Minister added that it might be possible to substitute the retirement benefits by pension insurance in the future.

LDPR Activities Create 'Scandal'

LD0802105294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0942 GMT 8 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Kapov]

[Text] Kohtla-Jarve February 8 TASS—A scandal was caused in Estonia by the activity of counsellor of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Petr Rozhok. In his interviews and statements he urged officers who retired from the Russian armed forces and who, under the laws of the Estonian Republic, are threatened with deportation, to form self- defence units and to resist by force any attempts to evict them.

Petr Rozhok told ITAR-TASS: "We live in the Russian land."

Mikhail Toporov, executive secretary of the Veterans Union in E stonia, said that this is a provocation aimed at creating another hot spot in Europe. "We have decided to defend our rights by political methods. We sent complaints against the denial of residence and eviction of former officers to the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Council and other organisations. We must take realities into consideration which representative of Zhirinovskiy's party refuses to do...", he said.

Estonian newspapers reported on Tuesday that the activity of representative of the LDPR in Estonia, Petr Rozhok, will be discussed by the next cabinet meeting.

Police Detain Government Adviser, TV Team

WS0702135294 Tallinn BNS in English 1045 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 07, BNS—Russian police in the disputed region of Petseri/Pechory on Saturday [5 February] detained a group of Estonians that included a government adviser, the leader of a lobbying group for reunification of the region with Estonia, and a video team of the Estonian television.

The group was taken to a police office in the town of Petseri and kept there for two hours.

Reet Tobre, the head of the Petserimaa movement, said Russian officials had said the arrest was due to filming. The Estonian television team had filmed a local church, industrial buildings in the town, as well as the railway station and local headquarters of a Russian border guard unit.

The police had told the group that Petseri is located in a border zone where filming is allowed only for holders of special permits, which can be obtained for a fee. "The police very carefully examined our documents. We had the Russian visas and we had crossed the control line legally," Tobre added.

Tobre's Petserimaa (Petseriland) group advocates the rights of the legal Estonian citizens in the region and stands for reunification of the region with Estonia.

The police had also tried to examine the material filmed by the video group, but had failed to do so because of not having the necessary equipment.

Aino Leppik, adviser to the government, in an interview today said the issue was being dealt with by the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

"It is absolutely inadmissible that Russian police detain Estonian citizens in Petseri without any charges. This,

under the constitution, took place on the Estonian territory," said Leppik, who was among those detained.

The television team and Aino Leppik were visiting Petseri for celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the local Estonian school.

The area, an Estonian territory under the 1920 peace treaty with Russia, was annexed and named a region of the Russian Federation shortly after World War II, when the Soviet Union was occupying the country.

Latvia

Clinton Praises Work of Parliament Delegation

WS0802094994 Tallinn BNS in English 1920 GMT 8 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 07, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis received a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton Monday [7 February], praising activities by the Latvian parliament delegation, which toured Washington last week to consult on security issues.

The letter was handed over by U.S. Ambassador Ints Silins.

The thoughtful preparations for the visit and the comprehensively represented political spectrum ensured an efficient exchange of information on the Russian troops withdrawal and the status of the Skrunda radar in Latvia, according to the letter.

The visit opened a door for progress in Latvian-Russian interstate talks. It will help settle the troops withdrawal and the Skrunda problem soon and improve relations between Latvia and Russia, Clinton said.

As reported, the Latvian delegation, led by Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs, met with President Clinton and other high-ranking officials to get advise on security-related problems.

The American leaders said their country could help monitor implementing of a withdrawal agreement if Latvia compromised with Russia on the terms of withdrawal.

Latvia should accept Russia's proposal to get all troops out by the end of August and allow Russia to operate the early-warning radar in Skrunda for four more years and dismantle the installation in 18 months after the term expires, they said.

Latvia has rescheduled talks with Russia from Feb. 7 to Feb. 21 to contemplate the U.S. recommendation.

Two New Russian Army Units Formed in Skrunda

LD0702195794 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Two new Russian Army units have been formed on the territory of Skrunda radar station. Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the Latvian bureau for monitoring the Russian Army withdrawal, told the Baltic News Service that until now there has been only the radar station itself and an MT [expansion unknown] battalion, but now an additional hospital and a counterintelligence unit have been formed as separate military units.

Although the Russian military personnel who are already stationed in Latvia serve with the units, Upmalis believes that the stationing of the units on just the territory of the Skrunda radar station is wrong, because the issue of the status of that facility in Latvia has not yet been coordinated at interstate talks.

Latest Russian Proposal Reported

WS0702201594 Tallinn BNS in English 1628 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, Feb 07, BNS—Russia wants to operate its early-warning anti-missile radar station in Skrunda, Latvia, for four more years after what the installation is dismantled in 18 months, according to the latest official proposal, presented Monday [7 February] by Ambassador Sergey Zotov.

The Latvian and Russian chief negotiators for withdrawal talks, Martins Virsis and Sergey Zotov, are meeting today in Moscow.

Virsis will submit the Russian proposal to the Latvian Cabinet Tuesday.

The closest round of interstate talks is planned for Feb. 14-15 in Riga.

Lithuania

Kravchuk Arrives in Lithuania for Official Visit

LD0802100794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0922 GMT 8 Feb 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius, 8 Feb—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived today on a one-day official visit at the invitation of the Lithuanian president. The Ukrainian delegation consists of temporary acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zuyahilskyy, Nationalities and Migration Minister Vladimir Yemets [name and title as received], Ukrainian National Bank Chairman Viktor Yushchenko and other officials.

At the Vilnius airport, decorated with the two countries' national flags, the Ukrainian leader was greeted by President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, Foreign-Affairs Minister Povilas Gylys and others.

After the ceremonial welcome, Leonid Kravchuk departed for the Antakalnskoye cemetery to lay a wreath at the memorial to the defenders of freedom.

Kravchuk and Brazauskas will meet one-to-one during the first part of the day, after which the Ukrainian president will address a plenary session of the Seimas and the two heads of state will sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Ukraine and Lithuania.

Ambassador Advocates Baltic-Black Sea Alliance

WS0802092194 Tallinn BNS in English 1920 GMT 7 Feb 94

[Text] Vilnius, Feb 07, BNS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's meeting Feb. 8 with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas will make history, said Rostislav Bilodid, Ukrainian ambassador to Lithuania.

In an interview with the Vilnius-based Russian-language newspaper ECHO LITVY, the ambassador said a Baltic-Black Sea alliance should be created, but "must not be narrowed only to a political notion."

Bilodid said considerable work needs to be done in terms of economic cooperation because the present volume of trade between Lithuania and Ukraine cannot satisfy either of the sides.

The ambassador said Ukraine can become a major market for Lithuanian goods, but Lithuania concentrates on economic ties with the West, the North and the East, while the South slips past without being seen. "My task is to direct Lithuania's attention in the southern direction," he said.

In Bilodid's view, mutual settlements are a major problem in economic relations between Lithuania and Ukraine. The ambassador said the increasing rate of inflation in his country creates additional difficulties. Among other problems, he also mentioned the imperfectness of banking systems in both countries. "All these problems are already discussed by experts. I think, the presidents will also utter their weighty arguments."

Independence Party Holds Congress

WS0802095794 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 1 Feb 94 No. 21 p 2

[Report by Rasa Verseckaite: "The Independence Party Did Not Commit Suicide"]

[Text] On Saturday [29 January], the Independence Party, founded by V. Cepaitis [former leader later accused of collaboration with the KGB], held its fifth congress in the Teachers' House. The congress was attended by 99 delegates, while the party itself has 316 members. Opening the congress, party leader V. Sapalas (by the way, he was reelected for another term) expressed his delight with achievements and his distress with losses. He called the results of the elections to the Seimas [parliament] the greatest political disgrace—Lithuania was the first to declare independence and elect communists to power. V. Sapalas regretted the humiliating behavior of the right-wing parties before the elections who were embarrassed to accept the Independence Party to their bloc. "Our brothers in ideas turned away, while the Nationalists' Party was the only one to extend a helping hand," said V. Sapalas. He admitted that many people were waiting for the Independence Party to destroy itself and merge with some other party.

Maybe, not only then, but even now many people expected that the Independence Party would sign a verdict for itself. "One can call your party a team of persistent people," praised them R. Smetona, leader of the Nationalists' Party. He added that the plan of the Homeland Union to use Sajudis as a means of annexing other smaller parties was unacceptable. It was also incorrect to revive Sajudis at the cost of smaller parties. Addressing the congress, however, Homeland Union leader V. Landsbergis repeatedly proposed to rally together and join other parties, maybe, the Homeland Union because it will be a force in the future. According to V. Landsbergis, circumstances in Lithuania decided the domination of two political blocs, and one had to take this into account. As the best proof of his statements, V. Landsbergis presented the results of the Seimas elections—about 15 percent of the votes were lost because they were distributed among small parties and organizations. Both V. Landsbergis' propaganda and A. Terleckas' [leader of the Freedom League] opinion (the latter proposed that the Independence Party merge with the nationalists and the Democratic Party and elect R. Smetona leader) were dismissed.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government. Users of this publication may cite FBIS or JPRS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying them as the secondary source.

Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) and Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) publications contain political, military, economic, environmental, and sociological news, commentary, and other information, as well as scientific and technical data and reports. All information has been obtained from foreign radio and television broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, books, and periodicals. Items generally are processed from the first or best available sources. It should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign language sources are translated; those from English-language sources are transcribed. Except for excluding certain diacritics, FBIS renders personal names and place-names in accordance with the romanization systems approved for U.S. Government publications by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS/JPRS. Processing indicators such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how the information was processed from the original. Unfamiliar names rendered phonetically are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clear from the original source but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source. Passages in boldface or italics are as published.

SUBSCRIPTION/PROCUREMENT INFORMATION

The FBIS DAILY REPORT contains current news and information and is published Monday through Friday in eight volumes: China, East Europe, Central Eurasia, East Asia, Near East & South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and West Europe. Supplements to the DAILY REPORTs may also be available periodically and will be distributed to regular DAILY REPORT subscribers. JPRS publications, which include approximately 50 regional, worldwide, and topical reports, generally contain less time-sensitive information and are published periodically.

Current DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are listed in *Government Reports Announcements* issued semimonthly by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 and the *Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications* issued by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The public may subscribe to either hardcover or microfiche versions of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications through NTIS at the above address or by calling (703) 487-4630. Subscription rates will be provided by NTIS upon request. Subscriptions are available outside the United States from NTIS or appointed foreign dealers. New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.

U.S. Government offices may obtain subscriptions to the DAILY REPORTs or JPRS publications (hardcover or microfiche) at no charge through their sponsoring organizations. For additional information or assistance, call FBIS, (202) 338-6735,or write to P.O. Box 2604, Washington, D.C. 20013. Department of Defense consumers are required to submit requests through appropriate command validation channels to DIA, RTS-2C, Washington, D.C. 20301. (Telephone: (202) 373-3771, Autovon: 243-3771.)

Back issues or single copies of the DAILY REPORTs and JPRS publications are not available. Both the DAILY REPORTs and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at many Federal Depository Libraries. Reference copies may also be seen at many public and university libraries throughout the United States.